

Ministers criticize absent Thatcher over spending cuts

Cabinet Ministers complained last night that they were kept in ignorance of the consequences of their recent decisions to cut public spending...

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Those calculations, supplied by the London Housing Aid Centre, were last night confirmed, though not volunteered, by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The centre also estimated that a single pensioner on an occupational and retirement pension of £4,000 (£76.92 a week) with a rent of £18 a week and rates of £5 a week, will lose £4.53 benefit from April...

It is understood that one minister protested at the time of last week's meeting that decisions were being made on the basis of prior agreements between the Treasury and spending departments...

Fowler challenges argument for cuts

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, last night shot down one of the key arguments used by Mrs Margaret Thatcher...

He said in a speech in Brent north London: "The numbers of people over 65 - who will have risen by more than one-third over the past 20 years - will now remain more or less stable as a proportion of the population until about 2010."

But Mrs Thatcher last cited the potential "burden" of population changes, in arguing for long-term spending restraints...

The Prime Minister, who is 58, said: "You always have to look at the burden of your social services on the working population because everything comes from them."

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, said in a London Weekend Television interview on Wednesday: "There is constant pressure from the ageing population."

He added: "There are fundamental trends in the economy and in society which, if we are not careful, are going to lead to a resurgence of public expenditure in the years ahead."

But Mr Fowler last night took his challenge to Mrs Thatcher and Mr Lawson further than the facts alone, arguing that social

The West's failures - Walker

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, used the occasion of a lecture in memory of President John F Kennedy last night to indicate shortcomings in the present British and American governments.

Speaking at the Oxford Union he lamented "the failure of governments over the last 20 years to address the fundamental issues of our generation."

It was profoundly depressing, he said, that the problems confronted by the world had hardly changed in the 20 years since Kennedy's death...

Mr Walker attained higher office under Mr Edward Heath than he has held in Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet, in which he has seen himself as a licensed dissenter.

The dissent, more often implied than expressed, has ranged over most areas of social and economic policy in a series of speeches at measured intervals.

In his Oxford speech Mr Walker praised President Kennedy and his murdered younger brother Robert for political ambitions and values which, he repeatedly implied, were lacking in Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan.

He condemned today's governments for failing to meet the challenges of the arms race, the division between rich and poor nations, the environment and the inner cities.

Continued on page 2, col 7

Commons clash on Exchange exemption Bill

Finance and Industry, page 17

A political argument erupted yesterday as the Government moved to halt a court action against the Stock Exchange by exempting its rules from the Restrictive Practices Act.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, presented the Stock Exchange Exemption Bill for its second reading in the House of Commons.

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The Greenham Common peace women may not have been the only ones disturbed by work associated with the arrival of the cruise missiles last week.

As with many areas of land owned by the Ministry of Defence, the Berkshire base is important for the flora and fauna for which it provides a home.

This was one of the points which emerged yesterday when

Greek ship in Gulf hit by Iraqi 'Exocet'

Shipping, page 17

A Greek merchant vessel sank in the Gulf after an Iraqi missile attack. All nineteen crew members were saved.

Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence Service reported that the Antigoni was struck by an Exocet on Monday while leaving the Iranian port of Bushier.

The crew abandoned ship in a lifeboat. Later, there was a second explosion and the ship sank.

According to the owners, the Stavros Shipping Company, of Piraeus, the crew was safe in Bushier and would be flown to Athens today.

The company understood that several other merchant ships, but no Iranian naval vessels, were hit.

The ship was carrying a cargo of steel. The Greek ministry said that she was travelling in convoy at the time of the attack.

Earlier this month, another Greek vessel, the Avra, was also hit by an Iraqi rocket in the Gulf.

No peace for Greenham fauna

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, opened an exhibition to mark the 10th anniversary of the ministry's work to conserve nature on more than 500,000 acres which it owns or leases.

A brochure produced to mark the anniversary notes that the scrub clearances at Greenham do not appear to have affected the nightingales since six were heard singing on April 17.

It also records that it is hoped to maintain adequate environment for the Purple Emperor and that the new tunnel-like shelters which accommodate the missiles will be covered over with heath plants rather than grass which will encourage the flora and fauna.

Although concern has been expressed about damage to archaeological sites on Salisbury Plain caused by the army's training activities, nature seems to be quite resilient.

On the tank training ranges at Bovington in Dorset, the deep trenches created by the tanks have been colonized by the rare Deptford warbler, and at the firing ranges near Lulworth Cove wild cabbages have sprung up in the holes created by tank shells, and this is thought to be the only site in southern England where the wild cabbage is found.

The prize for audacity, however, goes to a pair of stone curlews which regularly nest at RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk, within 25 metres of the main runway from which the aircraft constantly operate.



Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis arriving in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, for observance of the twentieth anniversary of President Kennedy's death. Family gathers, back page.

Print union leader hints at nationwide stoppage

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The first major confrontation between a union and the Government's employment legislation, coupled with the prospect of a shutdown of the printing industry throughout the country, moved closer yesterday after leaders of the National Graphical Association (NGA) decided unanimously not to pay a £50,000 fine imposed on the High Court for unlawful secondary picketing.

Union leaders will go before the TUC General Council today to explain their defiance of the law and to call for "financial, industrial, and moral support" from the trade unions if the court moves to sequester its funds and assets which amount to more than £10m.

Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the NGA, said after his union's 40-strong national council had decided not to pay the fine, that escalation of the dispute if there was sequestration of union funds, "would not necessarily be confined to Fleet Street. A complete stoppage of the printing industry is a possibility."

NGA fathers of chapels (shop stewards) from Fleet Street and Manchester national newspaper offices are to meet in London tomorrow to decide whether to involve national newspapers in the dispute which started with the dismissal of six printing workers at a Stockport weekly newspaper group.

Talks aimed at settling the

Stockport dispute, where the union has been engaged in mass picketing contrary to the 1980 Employment Act, are expected to be reconvened under the auspices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service either tomorrow or Friday.

Mr Wade said last night that the union's legal advice was that they would have to pay the fine.

Mr Robert Maxwell last night appeared to have circumvented his rebel printers in London by transferring work on the Radio Times and The Listener to a plant at Exeter. He is thought to have secured the co-operation of the NGA and Sogat '82 whose members have occupied his British Printing and Communications plant at Park Royal.

£50,000 fine before the end of the week, or face being held in contempt of court. He denied that the union was aware of the existence of an anonymous benefactor prepared to pay the fine on the union's behalf.

The case represents the first time that a union has been fined under the employment legislation and is likely to be a source of deep controversy within the TUC whose official policy is not to encourage unions or their members to break the law.

The union movement appears to be committed, however, under the terms of a decision by a special

Uproar at Brandt, victory for Kohl

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The historic Bundestag debate on Nato missiles ended last night after two days of sharp exchanges with the West German Government sure of a solid majority but almost all the Social Democrats opposing the imminent deployment of the Pershing missiles.

In contrast to the noisy demonstrations and confrontations between 3,000 anti-nuclear protesters and police on Monday, the atmosphere around the Bundestag was notably less tense yesterday.

Only about 300 people gathered at the barricades set up around Parliament, and the police presence was scaled down, by the Greens protested at the arrest of 15 parliamentary helpers. Detained for wearing scarves with anti-Pershing slogans on them in the banned zone around Parliament.

The Greens demanded a postponement of the debate and a number walked out when this was refused.

Uproar also drowned some of the speech of Herr Willy Brandt, the Social Democratic Party Chairman, after he had called the Christian Democratic Union secretary "The Government's hired slanders", because of his earlier description of the SPD as Moscow's fifth column.

Herr Brandt, the principal opposition speaker yesterday, insisted that his party's opposition to deployment was not directed against friendship with the United States nor the Western Alliance. "But we will not be cornered by Reagan," he said, and he accused the President of having an *idée fixe* in seeing the deployment of Pershing missiles as more important than the removal of the Soviet SS20s.

Earlier Herr Manfred Wörner, the Defence Minister, had repeated Bonn's determination to go ahead with deployment. He said Chancellor Kohl's Government had done what a German government alone could not do to protect German interests. Moscow could not be allowed to have a nuclear monopoly of more than 250 missiles aimed at Western Europe.

Herr Wörner gave a warning that the protests against deployment might lead the United States in the long run to turn away from Europe. And he emphasized to loud applause from the Government's supporters, that the American allies and their soldiers were welcome in the Federal Republic.

Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister who was also a member of the previous Schmidt government, sharply attacked Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the SPD parliamentary leader, for his volte-face in deployment, saying that he had been one of the keenest advocates of the Nato decision in the previous government.

Dr Kohl has already said that the Pershings may start to arrive in American bases in southern Germany from today onwards. Sources here, however, were suggesting yesterday that the missiles would be transported in sections.

Nuclear debate, page 16
Leading article, page 11

SAS are added to border patrol

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Extra troops were drafted into the border area of Northern Ireland yesterday as Mr James Prior rejected security demands from the Official Unionists, including selective internment against the political leaders of Provisional Sinn Féin.

Undercover police and the SAS were also deployed along the border to protect isolated communities and particularly seven churches as security forces fear the murders at the Pentecostal Hall near Darkley, Co Armagh, may mark a new development in terrorist tactics.

The increased security is also aimed at halting the movement of terrorists, weapons and explosives across the border, particularly in the south Armagh area.

As Mr Prior met a delegation from the Official Unionist Party to discuss security, the leaders of Ireland's four main churches visited the homes of the three church elders killed at the Mountain Lodge Pentecostal Assembly two days ago.

The Official Unionists also demanded more permanent checkpoints along the border and restrictions on access to the media by organizations like Provisional Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Provisional IRA.

Mr Prior told the delegation that two companies, about 250 men, were being sent from the Army's existing 9,500 troops in the Province to reinforce border areas. All Army leave has also been cancelled.

During the two hours of talks the possibility of the 28 Official Unionist members reversing their decision to withdraw from the Assembly was not discussed.

In the Assembly, the party was criticized by the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, who said that if Stormont closed, it would never reopen.

His party, who with the Alliance Party will attempt to keep it operating, condemned the Official Unionists for doing the Provisional IRA's work.

Leading politicians in the Province have been warned their lives may now be at risk, but security forces are opposed to saturating the border area with troops. They believe that it would alienate the Roman Catholic population.

Security forces know that it is impossible to protect every church. In the south Armagh area because they are very isolated and only yards from the border.

Hundreds of mourners, including many who were in the Parkley hall during the attack, attended the funeral yesterday of Mr Victor Cunningham, aged 39, one of the murdered church elders.

Advertisement for NESCAFE Gold Blend decaffeinated coffee. Includes image of the coffee tin and text: 'There's only one decaffeinated coffee that tastes as good as Gold Blend.'

Tomorrow

Balancing... Chancellor Nigel Lawson talks exclusively to Kenneth Fleet and Frances Williams about public spending, taxation and the economy.



... the books Sir John Plumb reviews Robert Rhodes James's biography of Albert, Prince Consort. Plus Woodrow Wyatt on Woodhouse, Andrew Sinclair on fiction and Piers Brendon on John Campbell's biography of F. E. Smith.

Words... Michael Hamlyn reports on the first day of the Commonwealth summit conference in Delhi.

... and pictures Profile of John Piper, artist, as he approaches his eightieth birthday.

Benn seeks by-election nomination

Mr Wedgwood Benn will be a candidate for the Labour Party nomination in the Chesterfield by-election, it was confirmed yesterday.

Supporters of Mr Benn in the local party had contacted him on Monday night after reports in the local evening newspaper had suggested that he might not seek the nomination. He told them that he would accept a nomination.

Grenada leader

Sir Paul Scoon, Governor-General of Grenada, told his closest advisers that Mr Alistair McIntyre has finally accepted the job of head of Government and will arrive on the island on Sunday.

Denktas snub

VIP facilities at Heathrow airport were denied to Mr Rauf Denktas, leader of the break-away Turkish Cypriot state, when he arrived from New York on a two-day visit.

Mortgage blow

The Abbey National, which has broken with the building society cartel, decided against cutting its mortgage rate from 11.25 per cent.

Falklands victim

The family of a soldier killed in the Falklands has been told that he was a victim of British shellfire, not Argentine action.

Lynch stays

Monte Lynch, the Surrey batsman, has ignored the advice of his county and is staying with the rebel West Indian tourists in South Africa, thus putting his cricket future at risk.



Leader page, 11 Letters: On investment, from Professor W. H. Butler, religious experience, from the Rev Dr K. Slack

Leading articles: Germany and the West, Housing policy, Agricultural tenancies Features, pages 8, 9, 10 The cars that ate our towns, by Sir Colin Buchanan, a Londoner touches the heart of Poland: All-in war: Spectrum: design for high living; The Wednesday Page: private medicine's hidden extras

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Ripper police develop computer system to handle big inquiries

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

A computer system to handle large investigations has been developed by West Yorkshire police.

The Major Incidents Computer Application, (MICA) is partly a response to inadequacies in the Yorkshire Ripper inquiry, which was overwhelmed by hundreds of thousands of paper records.

Officers without previous computing experience are able to enter or retrieve information from the system.

For example, if a detective wants to know whether a white Cortina owned by a man with a Welsh accent, grey hair and tattoos was in the Red Lion car park on a series of dates, he enters the question on the keyboard in a simple inquiry language called "English", the answer is displayed on the screen.

Microdata, its Hemel Hempstead-based manufacturer, unveiled the system in London yesterday Mr Jerry Causley, its managing director, said: "Mica is at least two years ahead of any comparable system currently under development in the UK."

West Yorkshire police have worked with Microdata and Isis, a software company based in Bristol, to develop MICA over the past year.

It has been used in seven murder inquiries, in West Yorkshire and on a trial basis by three West Midlands forces, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

Derbyshire borrowed a prototype in the summer to help in the hunt for the killer of Diana Towers, aged 16, of Glossop.

A man has been charged with her murder. Nottinghamshire is evaluating MICA which was used in the unsolved investigation into last month's murder of Collette Aram, aged 16.

In West Yorkshire, MICA is being tested alongside the conventional manual methods. The police say that they are satisfied with assistance it provides, but will not reveal details of its use of future plans.

The Ripper investigation was seriously handicapped by the major incident room's ineffectiveness according to the official report by Mr Lawrence Byfield.

The centre was overloaded with unprocessed information.

A spokesman said yesterday: "Obviously MICA would have been a great asset if we had had it for the Ripper inquiry. But the technology at the time could not have provided us with anything approaching it."

MICA was developed independently of the Home Office, which is sponsoring a similar trial project called MIRIAM (Major Incident Room Index Action Management) in Essex.

Microdata and the West Yorkshire police say that MICA complies with all standards for big investigations laid down by the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers. The Home Office is assessing MICA and has not given full approval.

MICA can run on any minicomputer made by the American-owned Microdata, with one to 128 terminals. It searches stored text a 100,000 words a minute.



Sextuplet team meets again

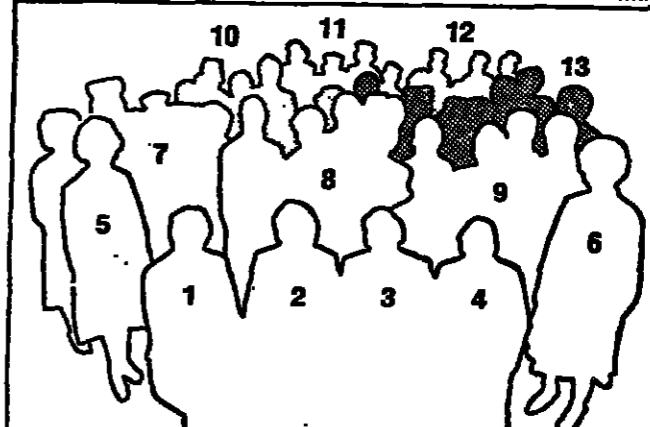
The medical team that attended Mrs Janet Walton as she gave birth to sextuplets were reunited at Liverpool Maternity Hospital yesterday. A total of 55 nurses, doctors and medical technicians assembled for the first time since the six Walton daughters were born on Friday.

Professor John Beazley, aged 51, consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology, had nothing but praise for his team. He said: "The teamwork was excellent. I think this achievement was remarkable - it shows what National Health Service medicine is all about."

The babies' names announced yesterday by Mr Walton in order of birth they are: Hannah Jane (birth weight 2lb 1oz), Lucy Anne (2lb 15oz), Ruth Michelle (2lb 11oz), Sarah Louise (2lb 5oz), Kate Elizabeth (2lb 13oz), and Jennifer Rose (3lb 9oz).

Dr Richard Cooke, consultant paediatrician; 3. Mr Usama Abdulla, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist; 4. Dr John Redford, anaesthetist; 5. Mrs Manra Ryan, senior nursing officer; 6. Miss Jean Farrington, senior nursing officer; 7. Delivery suite theatre staff; 8. Special care baby unit staff; 9. Theatre technicians; 10. X-ray unit staff; 11. Liverpool Royal Infirmary nurses; 12. Liverpool Women's Hospital infertility unit staff; 13. Ante- and post-natal staff.

Key to photograph: 1. Professor John Beazley; 2. Dr Richard Cooke, consultant paediatrician; 3. Mr Usama Abdulla, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist; 4. Dr John Redford, anaesthetist; 5. Mrs Manra Ryan, senior nursing officer; 6. Miss Jean Farrington, senior nursing officer; 7. Delivery suite theatre staff; 8. Special care baby unit staff; 9. Theatre technicians; 10. X-ray unit staff; 11. Liverpool Royal Infirmary nurses; 12. Liverpool Women's Hospital infertility unit staff; 13. Ante- and post-natal staff.



'Character' certificate for pupils

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

The Government is considering giving all school leavers a certificate describing their character, behaviour and sporting achievements as well as their academic record.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, said yesterday that a draft statement will be made next week giving details of the new certificates, which have been pioneered by several Labour-controlled authorities.

He said: "They will be particularly encouraging for those who at the moment leave school with almost no academic achievement to their credit. They would help employers find out about the character of school-leavers as well as their examination performance."

Police chief to face court

Det Chief Insp Robert Warner, head of Lincolnshire fraud and drug squad, has been summoned to appear in court in connection with the police campaign in Nottingham against "kerb crawling".

Nottinghamshire police confirmed yesterday that Mr Warner had been summoned to appear before Nottingham Magistrates' Court on December 20. He has entered a denial.

Kenny Everett admonished

Kenny Everett has been admonished by the controller of Radio 2, Mr Bryan Marriott, for remarks about the Prime Minister on his programme on Saturday.

Mr Everett ended with the comment: "When Britain was an empire, we were ruled by an emperor. When we became a kingdom, we were ruled by a king. Now we're a country, we're ruled by Margaret Thatcher."

Police interview jeweller

Two British police officers, who went last week to see Mr Robert Charwin, the Midlands jeweller who is awaiting trial in Spain on fraud charges, said yesterday in Denia, near Alicante, that he had given them names of up to nine people in whom they are interested. They indicated that on their return later this week they will be considering possible action against those named.

Paratrooper killed by British shelling

By John Withero

A paratrooper whose parents thought he had been killed by the Argentinians died under British shelling on the last day of the Falklands conflict.

The Ministry of Defence was forced some weeks ago to tell the family of Private David Parr, aged 24, the truth because of the publication of a book on the role of the 2 Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, by one of its most distinguished former commanders, Major-General John Frost.

Major-General Frost, who led the defence of the road bridge at Arnhem in 1944, said last night he was sorry he had included details of Private Parr's death.

As a retired officer he said that he was under no obligation to show his manuscript to the Army, although he had intended to allow commanders of 2 Para to see it, but they had been on service in Belize. In 2 Para Falklands, the general says that Private Parr, of Oulton Broad, near Lowestoft, narrowly escaped death when a bullet lodged in his navel. But was killed instantly by British shelling during the assault on Wireless Ridge.

The book, also angered the ministry by revealing the name of the medical sergeant who as an act of mercy shot a mortally wounded Argentine.

He also disclosed that Major Chris Keeble, who led the attack on Goose Green after Colonel 'H' Jones, VC, was killed, had drawn a pistol to persuade a Royal Marine to ferry paratroopers to another part of the island.

Police delay offer to Waldorf

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard has yet to respond to the compensation claim made by Mr Steven Waldorf, the freelance film editor shot by mistake by officers in a police operation last January.

Yesterday Mr Arwyn Hopkins, Mr Waldorf's legal adviser, said that a figure had been put to the Yard but no decision had been taken. Hopkins refused to say how much Mr Waldorf was claiming.

Last month two detectives were acquitted by a jury at the Central Criminal Court of charges involving the shooting of Mr Waldorf. Det. Constables John Jardine and Peter Finch are still suspended from duty while a report on possible disciplinary proceedings is completed.

The report, which is being studied by Mr James Sewell, Deputy Assistant Commissioner and head of the complaints investigation bureau, also covers Det. Constable John Deane who opened fire on Mr Waldorf but was not prosecuted.

Bruce Lee fails in appeal

By David Nicholson, Lord

Lawyers representing Bruce Lee yesterday failed in their attempt at the Court of Appeal to clear him of all of the 26 deaths for which he was convicted. Lee, aged 23, is seeking a retrial of the 11 cases of arson in which the 26 people died.

The court yesterday refused him the right to appeal against conviction for a house fire in December, 1979 in Selby Street, Hull, in which three children died.

The court made its decision after ruling that evidence on other fires for which Lee was convicted, indicating that they were accidental, or that he had an alibi, could not be admitted in dealing with the Selby Street fires.

The ruling was disputed by Mr Harry Ogden, QC, representing Lee, he said it could lead to a "grave risk" of serious injustice. Lee, who is disabled and educationally subnormal, confessed to all the fires but later retracted his confessions claiming that police had "badgered" him into them.

Lord Justice Ackner, presiding, said that the remedy lay with the Home Secretary if Lee's case depended on inadmissible evidence. But he cited the considerable public interest into the case and said that a lengthy reserved judgment would be made on the reasons for the ruling. Mr Justice Glidewell and Mr Justice Leggatt agreed.

At Leeds crown court, in January, 1981, Lee was convicted of manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility and was sentenced to be detained without limit of time. Against legal advice, he had changed his plea to guilty. Much of the evidence was thus not heard.

The hearing continues today.

Freshly-cut cheese is shoppers' favourite

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

For the first time in many years, British shoppers are showing a preference for fresh cheese cut at the counter rather than in prepacks, according to Dairy Crest, the manufacturing and marketing subsidiary of the Milk Marketing Board.

The change is being compared with the rejection of pasteurised keg beer in favour of traditional draught brews under the influence of the Campaign for Real Ale. But although there is a body calling itself the Campaign for Real Cheese, a closer analogy is with the growing demand for fresh meat and fish, and for freshly baked bread, which has forced many supermarkets to instal butchers' and fishmongers' counters and to bake bread on the premises.

Overall cheese consumption rose last year to nearly 272,000 tonnes. Although two thirds of that was Cheddar, sales of Double Gloucester increased by more than 17 per cent.

Praise for police who faced gunman

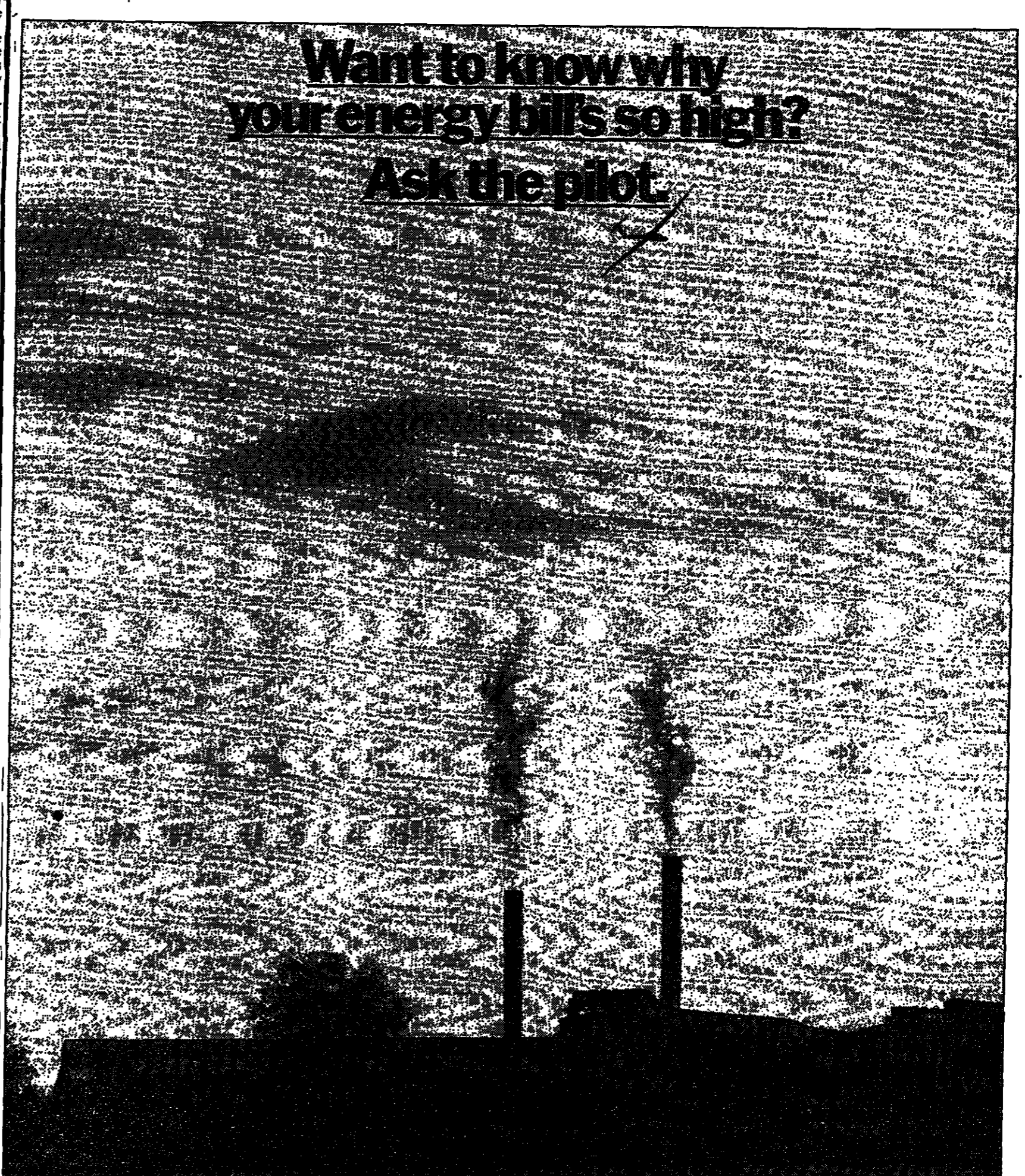
Officers from Scotland Yard's Flying Squad who faced a man armed with a sawn-off shotgun were commended for their coolness by a judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. The incident happened only four days after Mr Stephen Waldorf was mistakenly shot by police, but in this case the officers could have not been criticized had they opened fire, the court was told.

Mr Christopher Mitchell, for the prosecution, said the incident occurred in Fulham - a few miles from the scene of the Waldorf shooting - when armed Flying Squad officers moved in to arrest three building society raiders. One of the raiders, Emmanuel Angol, aged 19 pointed the shotgun at Det. Constable Kim Durham, who was unarmed.

His colleague, Det. Sergeant Ronald Turnbull, drew his weapon, levelled it at Angol's chest, and shouted: "Armed police - drop it or I will shoot". Angol swung in his direction, saw him take aim and immediately threw the gun down, the court heard.

Judge Peter Mason said: "I would like to commend the officers' coolness and restraint". Angol, of Stodmarsh House, Cowley Road, Stockwell, south-west London, was jailed for a total of seven years after admitting two building society robberies, conspiracy to rob and possession of a firearm.

Eamon Anderson, aged 24, of Tyler Street Greenwich, south-east London, was also jailed for a total of seven years after admitting two robberies, conspiracy to rob and possession of a firearm.



Want to know why your energy bills so high? Ask the pilot.

Any glider pilot will tell you that a glider rises on hot air currents, or thermals. And that one of the best places to find a thermal is over a factory.

Great for the pilot, but not so hot for you if you're running the factory. Because the hot air he's using could be costing you a fortune in wasted energy.

Exactly how much could bring you down to earth with a bump. Especially when energy costs play such a vital part in production costs.

However, with the help you can receive from the Energy Conservation Demonstration Projects Scheme, there's a lot you can do about controlling your energy use.

Since the scheme was set up we've advised many companies with similar problems. A couple of years ago, we helped Pilkington Brothers at their glass works.

In a nutshell, the melting of glass produces a lot of waste heat. Some obviously can't be reused because of pollution, but a considerable amount can.

What Pilkington did was to install a system that used the hot air that could be recycled, to heat their warehouse to prevent condensation from forming on the stored glass.

The estimated annual savings will enable the scheme to pay for itself in three years. Perhaps you could install a scheme on similar lines? To find out, send in the coupon and we'll send you details of this and other ways to save energy.

It's good news for you, but perhaps not quite such good news for the pilot.

To: The Energy Efficiency Office, PO Box 702, London SW20 8SL. Please send me more information on waste heat recovery and how I can make better use of energy.

Name: _____
Job Title: _____
Address: _____
Tel: _____

ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICE

PARLIAMENT November 22 1983

Tebbit denies selling out to the City

STOCK EXCHANGE

It was not merely desirable but well nigh essential that the Restrictive Trade Practices (Stock Exchange) Bill be enacted, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said when he moved the second reading of the Bill in the Commons.

He said that as a consequence of its reference to the Restrictive Trade Practices Court in 1979 the Stock Exchange had become petrified, not in the sense of being afraid, but in the sense of being set in stone, unable to meet the challenges of a changing world.

The Bill would exempt the Stock Exchange from the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976 and end the court action. It was estimated that it would result in a saving of public expenditure on legal costs of about £500,000.

Going over the history, Mr Tebbit said that despite the offer of the Stock Exchange to undertake a review of its rules in which the Government and the Bank of England would have more certain control of the outcome, the then Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection (Mr John Fraser) decided in February 1979 against a request of the Stock Exchange that it should be removed from the scope of the restrictive practice legislation.

By 1979 the Stock Exchange was in need of change in order to carry on its business and carry out its responsibilities to investors. In the four years since then, it had become clear that the court action had become a serious and chronic barrier to change.

To the satisfaction of the custodians of the vested interests of trade unions, industrial relations agreements between trade unions and employers were outside the scope of the Act. By large, the learned professions were excluded. This Bill would be a statute which exempted the Stock Exchange.

The Government required necessary changes to be made as part of the bargain under which the action was to be ended and the Stock Exchange was to be exempted. For the first time lay members would be appointed to the council of the Stock Exchange. They would account for up to 25 per cent of the council and would be appointed by the Governor of the Bank of England.

At least five lay members were to join the council by the end of next month. A new membership appeals body entirely independent of the Stock Exchange members of the council was being established. If the council were to be able to apply for membership, the appeal body would be able to review the position and if the applicant met the requirements would be able to over-ride the council's decision. The appeals body could include non-council members but Stock Exchange members were ineligible. On the exchange's existing appeals committee on disciplinary matters, people who were not Stock Exchange members of the council would constitute a majority.

These changes would allow the influence of Stock Exchange members to be felt at the centre of policy-making in the exchange and would ensure refusal or admission to membership of the exchange was seen to be objective. A further change - details of which would be announced in a day or two - was that it would be possible for non-members of the exchange to serve as non-executive directors of limited corporate members of the council provided these were a majority of directors who were Stock Exchange members.

This provision further liberalized existing rules which allowed any single non-member to own up to 29.9 per cent of the capital of limited corporate members of the Stock Exchange.

However, part of the agreement reached by the Stock Exchange which had attracted most attention was the undertaking to dismantle rules prescribing the minimum scales of commissions. The council had already announced its decision to abolish minimum commissions for overseas securities and the relevant rule changes would take effect at the beginning of April, 1984.

Now it was considering various options for the further steps which were needed before December 31, 1986 - the date by which it had undertaken to dismantle minimum commissions completely.

In July a gradual dismantling had been envisaged. Now it might well be that all remaining scales might have been completed, the so-called "big bang approach". The effects of breaking the log jam had already been quite remarkable. The impetus for change seemed to be growing. An unprecedented debate had been sparked off by the decision to ask Parliament to take this case out of court.

It was not only or indeed primarily for the Government to take decisions on the long-term future of the securities industry in Britain. He did not wish for the Secretary of State to plan and regulate the market. It was a task for those more expert in the securities market and for those who wished to trade in it.

His interest was threefold: to ensure the Stock Exchange continued as an effective market in which industry and commerce could seek finance, the Government could issue gilts and from time to time like state industries into ownership of the public; to see the investor properly served and properly protected; and to foster the London market as a contribution to Britain's invisible exports.

Some of the most important and intense debates since the Government's intentions had been announced had been centred on the future of single capacity. Within and outside the Stock Exchange were many who believed that single capacity could not long survive the introduction of negotiated commissions.

Single capacity had been a clear and well-understood way to protect investors against unfair trading practices but if the Stock Exchange and its users decided that concentration or capacity must go, it was not for him to stand in their way. His interest was not in the ending of single capacity but in safeguards to investors and that they should be in place before any change to single capacity was made.

Investors could also demand adequate safeguards. If they did not exist on the Stock Exchange in London, they would take their custom elsewhere so the exchange was well aware of the need to be ready, whichever way the market developed.

Legal changes might lead to the establishment of more extensive retail outlets and wider share ownership but after the experience of the past four months, he would hesitate to predict the extent of change.

It was essential that if single capacity went, it should be replaced by other protections and probably the maximum openness or transparency - if that was the current word - in dealing would be among them.

He was determined to see international commercial activity in London continue to make a contribution to the economy. Two Conservative MPs had implied that he was letting loose a foreign invasion, but he suspected that some might wish to restrain him if he wanted to give undertakings not to allow foreign companies to buy other British assets. If they thought of going too far down that road they would begin to think of getting into an economic siege mentality.

Payroll vote had right to know about Bill

COMMONS

It was normal procedure for members of the Government to be informed of the contents of Bills to be discussed on a Friday on which the ministers responsible had expressed the Government's opposition, Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, said when the issue was raised by Mr Robert Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby, Lab), whose Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) Bill was blocked last Friday.

Mr Wareing sponsor of the Bill, had asked: Would he indicate how far Government business was disrupted last Friday morning, how many ministers cancelled, or curtailed urgent engagements?

He is aware of a briefing note, which I have in my possession and which I understand was circulated to Conservative members telling them how to respond at the end of the debate on the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) Bill if he is not, he is incompetent.

Mr Biffen: I stand by what I said in either case he should resign. (Conservative protest.) The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill): I think he would wish to rephrase that comment.

Mr Wareing: In what way have I offended the House? Perhaps I could suggest Mr Biffen had misled the House.

Mr Biffen: Events on Friday excited a great deal of concern and emotion. That is understandable. It is not the first time matters like that have been debated and the Government have subsequently been accused of employing a payroll vote.

Mr Biffen: I am sure the House would think it extraordinary if members of the Government were not advised of the contents of a Bill to which the responsible minister had expressed Government opposition. That is a long standing practice.

Mr Cranley Oastlow (Woking, C): Mr Biffen should ignore the synthetic indignation and indignation on Friday and recognize that the eagerness of Labour MPs to turn up and vote for measures which are wasteful and unworkable increase the determination of Conservatives to vote against them.

Mr Biffen: Any move to introduce contentious legislation, even though in private members' time, provokes considerable opposition.

Review of procedure urged

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L) asked during questions in the Commons if, when the Select Committee on Procedure set up by Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, would consider having a pre-legislative stage, like that with the special standing committees, when MPs would have an opportunity to seek advice and question witnesses.

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Mr Timothy Smith (Beaconsfield, C) said later that now that a timetable matter has been agreed for a second time, the case for a review of standing committee procedure was beyond doubt.

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Mr Biffen, amid Labour shouts of "No", said: There clearly is wide feeling in the House that this is a matter which might be considered by the Committee on Procedure, but the House itself must decide.

Advice sought on cutting expenditure

The debate in the Commons tomorrow (Wednesday) on pensions would be the ideal platform to discuss questions of public expenditure, Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, said when answering questions for the Prime Minister who is in New Delhi for the Commonwealth Conference.

Mr Kenneth Carlisle (Lincoln, C) had asked: The pressure on public expenditure is increasing and so a great burden on the taxpayer and the public cannot be borne without considerable strain.

He will undertake to initiate a wide-ranging debate to ascertain how we can afford all the many services the public now demand?

Mr Biffen: There is always strong pressure to increase public expenditure. There is much public debate on this subject and we would welcome serious contributions from many quarters academic and business as well as Parliament.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Opposition motion on pensioners' living standards. Lords (2.30): Debate on wealth creation and investment.



Parkinson: Huge sums would have been spent

of the free market in labour, would react to those terrible practices when they were undertaken, not by industrial or white-collar trade unionists, but by gentlemen in pinstriped suits who traded on the Stock Exchange.

Now they knew it was a new style for a new job, a new policy for a new department. The hawk of employment had become the dove of trade and industry.

This was an exercise of ministerial power for which he could find no precedent. There was no record of a measure to frustrate judicial procedure once it had commenced and it was, on that account alone, a scandal. It undermined what was the Office of Fair Trading still had, devalued the court, and the law itself.

The withdrawal from the purview of the court and the Act was tantamount to an immediate repeal of the Bill, and further references were to be deleted. But why did the Secretary of State undertake this extraordinary and unprecedented act?

Another was that the then Secretary of State, also Tory Party chairman, had a special sympathy for the party with the Stock Exchange not unconnected with their continued and total support for the Tory Party. A third was that the old Tory Party habit of settling difficult matters over port at the end of a long and tiring day had been echoed in the editorial in The Times today.

It had said the agreement with the Stock Exchange chairman would benefit in some respects as Tory tribute to the City of London's massive financial support for Mrs Thatcher's election campaign.

Contrary to what the minister had said, anything but a long and protracted action of this kind was not frozen or immobile. In fact, it was encouraged by the very process of reference to the court to make adjustments in its practices.

Mr Cecil Parkinson (Hertsmere, C), the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said it was those seeking to raise a white flag and experience of the unique matters involved should listen to arguments by representatives of a profession which themselves had an entrenched single capacity system, in the case against single capacity.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said the Bill was the result of deal between the chairman of the Stock Exchange and Mr Parkinson, former Secretary of State. Since then Mr Tebbit had arrived at the department with a reputation for being founded on his bitter enmity of the whole doctrine of self-regulation.

He had wondered how the sworn foe of the closed shop and demarcation agreement, the apostle

concentrate on stretching each particular band separately. The holder of my office has to decide on the merits of any particular proposal taking into account the effect on all concerned.

Mr David Heathcoat-Amory (Wells, C) had begun the exchanges by saying grammar schools were a valuable bridge between the private and public sectors of education. Would the Secretary of State, he asked, do all he can to protect existing grammar schools and to encourage setting up new grammar schools.

Mr Keith Joseph: The grammar school has certainly played, and is playing, a distinguished part in the development of our school system.

Mr John Spence (Rydale, C): One section of the review deals with siting. As part of my constituency lies in a national park, I am particularly concerned that any advertising on trunk roads or country roads should be tastefully and artistically done. I have been able to get an agreement with the Government departments responsible for planning decisions.

Mr Lamont: The question of siting for tourist facilities is a long standing matter going to the core of the industry.

Mr John Battershill (Bournemouth, West, C): There is great concern at the current taxation of proprietors of holiday lettings.

Mr Lamont: I am aware of this point. It is under review and discussion with the Treasury. Many representations have been received from the tourist industry about it.

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L): Can he give an assurance that money allocated to each board will be closely related to the size of the tourist industry in the area it seeks to serve?

Mr Lamont: That is a very logical statement and we shall seek to follow it.

New peers

Lord Fanshawe of Richmond, formerly Sir Anthony Royle, Conservative MP for Richmond upon Thames, Richmond, and Lord Carmichael of Kelvingrove, formerly Mr Neil Carmichael, Labour MP for Glasgow, Kelvingrove, were introduced in the House of Lords.

Cable TV franchise criteria criticized

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The Government's rigid criteria for awarding cable television franchises and the ambitious expansion plans of existing cable operators have been given as the primary reasons why only 10 new networks may be licensed at the end of the month instead of the expected 12.

The selection, to be made by the Home Office and the Department of Trade and Industry on the advice from the Economist Intelligence Unit, is only days away from being finalized and yet ministers are in a quandary. The Government wanted to award the franchises for multichannel cable systems (about 30 channels) to a consortium that had experience and new technology but also sought to encourage newcomers. The criteria are proving incompatible.

Many in the cable industry have criticized the Government in recent weeks for allowing Rediffusion and Visionaire to expand existing networks to more than a hundred areas around the country. The Government had assured those operators that they would be allowed to expand such systems without fear of competition until 1985. That concession, government critics believe, has unnecessarily and severely constrained the areas available for franchise bids.

The Home Office remains confident that the awards will be made on time. In all, 37 applications have been submitted with competing tenders for Westminster and Central, British Telecom has applied for nine franchises in partnership with local operators.

The franchises to be awarded at the end of the month are a compromise by a nervous Home Office which is fearful of falling standards in television programming.

Winning smiles: Lorna Griffiths and Jonathan Powell, both aged 16, and from Kenfig Hill, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, with the anti-chill milk bottle holder they designed. It won the 16-18 age group in the Schools Design Competition and earned them a £200 prize.

At the Institution of Civil Engineers, Westminster, yesterday, Princess Alexandra presented them with the prize. Other prizewinners in the competition were: Mr Andrew Chian, aged 19, now of Loughborough University, £270 for designing an automatic window lock; and Miss Jackie Garrett, aged 19, of Hyde Farm, Danbury, Essex, £250 for a wheelchair 'bridge' to enable the handicapped to transfer from chair to car.

Plans published yesterday aim to bring water users into closer contact with water authorities. The Thames Water Authority and the Northumbrian Water Authority have produced the first suggestions for new consultative procedures, which were imposed on water authorities by the 1983 Water Act.

Although differing in detail, the plans published by the two water authorities are basically similar. Local consultative committees or panels will meet several times a year, and will represent household consumers, industry, commerce, and local government.

Public comment is now invited on the proposals, which must be submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment by January 3 1984. If approved, the new bodies could be operating by next summer.

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Parliament today

Water boards plan consumer panels

By Mark Rosselli

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Runaway horses trap driver

Miss Louise Griffin, aged 23, managing director of a computer sales company, was seriously ill in hospital in Bristol after stampeding horses trampled over her car, trapping her in it. The accident happened when six horses broke free from a field and charged at her car as she drove down a quiet country road near Bristol. Firemen took more than 20 minutes to cut her free.

Computer gifts from the Queen

The Queen will present 30 BBC microcomputers to Indian children in the Punjab tomorrow to mark her state visit to his country. The present will consist of five networks each containing six microcomputer workstations. They are expected to be used in selected schools and universities.

Regiment raided

Regimental gifts and souvenirs worth almost £2,000 have been stolen from the 1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment at Tidworth, Hampshire, where two months ago silverware worth £100,000 was stolen from the 1st Queens Own Highlanders. Police are not connecting the thefts.

Menus at the Palace criticized

The revelation that the abominable bombe and calorific cream are two of the most frequent dishes gracing Buckingham Palace buffets has brought criticism from Mr Drew Smith, editor of The Good Food Guide to be published next week.

The palace menus are about as innovative as the English football team's attack," he wrote in this week's issue of Women magazine after studying royal menus of the past six years.

Mr Smith expressed disdain at the Queen's apparent taste for French food and avoidance of all that is British; roast beef has not been served in six years and game only once in five. While paté de foie gras and lamb laced with rich sauces have delighted numerous dignified mouths.

The Queen of the Netherlands fared best, Mr Smith said, although her meal, too, was saturated with brandy and truffles and foie gras baked in a pastry case.

Civic Trust warning on fake economies

The public will suffer in the long term if local authorities, under financial pressures, disband their architects' departments and environmental teams. Mr Michael Middleton, Director of the Civic Trust, says today.

In the report on the trust's 1983 awards, he says that the maintenance and making good required on work that has not been properly conceived and executed at the outset is likely to cost a good deal more than any short-term saving.

Apathy and lack of concern are with us still and at the highest level," he writes. "Sadly the motivation, the drive to achieve quality, remains too rare."

Among the 17 award-winning schemes are two in Manchester the Lower Campfield market, which was converted into the city's new Air and Space Museum, and the refurbished Barton Arcade. Another is the new Jarrow Riverside park on the site of a former chemical and gas works.

Divorce

Hailsham Bill middle

Mr Hailsham said on Monday that the divorce Bill had been the subject of a long and detailed discussion in the House of Lords.

He said that the Bill would be introduced in the House of Commons in the next few days.

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Divorce in Britain: 3

Hailsham denies Bill favours middle-class men

Lord Hailsham said on Monday in the Lords that the new divorce Bill had been widely misunderstood and distorted. It would not, he argued, make divorce easier. JOHN WITHEROW, in the final part of our series, looks at the controversy surrounding the Bill.

Is the reform of the divorce law now before Parliament a male, middle class Bill, or in the words of Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, "Justice! Justice! Tempered with mercy and compassion?" No divorce reform has ever failed to provoke controversy and the present legislation is no exception. To its supporters it is a step towards a clean break and putting an end to the "alimony drones" and "divorce bounty hunters" who have a "meal ticket" for life. But to its opponents it is a law intended to help the tiny minority of well-off men with demanding second wives who keep their ex-wives on maintenance. The churches too are alarmed by the proposed reduction of the minimum period of marriage from three years to 12 months.

Young childless women affected

The Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill is the first important piece of government legislation on divorce for more than a decade and is based on a Law Commission report of 1981. It challenges the concept that a husband should maintain a former wife indefinitely; places greater emphasis on conduct in marriage; proposes barring all divorces in the first year of marriage; and gives greater priority to the needs of children.

But will the Bill, which could become law within a year, make much difference? Some registrars maintain it will affect only 10 per cent of cases and that the courts will continue to dispense justice in paternalistic fashion, accepting that women are often at a disadvantage and need protection. Lord Hailsham, appearing on the television programme *Credo*, argued that fears about the Bill were unfounded and that it would not affect divorced women with young children. He denied claims by one-parent family groups that it would lead to a reduction in the payment of maintenance and a greater reliance on supplementary benefits.

The people who would be affected, he implied, would be young childless women, and those whose children had grown up who would see a "tapering off" of maintenance over a period of years.

The Bill is generally being welcomed by the legal establishment. Sir John Arnold, President of the Family Division at the High Court, said it was "a step in the right direction in the financial field".

But for others it does not go far enough. Some judges would like to have seen conciliation included, which would ease pressure on the courts, with couples agreeing first on uncontested areas. The Campaign for Justice in Divorce, which has been an

effective pressure group for divorced men, also feel the Bill is a compromise. Dr Richard Allan, its policy adviser, would like to see a complete end to child maintenance and a matrimonial property law that would divide equally the spoils of marriage, including pension rights.

He believes divorced men who pay maintenance are acting as scapegoats in a society which refuses to treat women equally. Nonetheless, he maintains the Bill will accelerate moves to greater equality. "Some women's groups say we should get equality first and then change the divorce law", he said, "but I think we should change the divorce law and equality will follow. Society will have to meet the demands of working women with children and then you will find the place awash with crèches and day-care centres."

The clause in the Bill giving greater emphasis to conduct is also causing concern. Critics point out that it has moved from Lord Denning's ruling that conduct should be excluded unless it was "gross and obvious", to the Bill's "inequitable to disregard it". That, they fear, could mean a return to the days before the Divorce Reform Act, 1969, with the concept of "guilty" and "innocent" parties and the possibility that wives could be thrown into hardship for "misconduct". Lord Hailsham, however, said it is only a slight change, adding "you cannot disregard the way people are behaving, or have behaved."

Most ex-wives get less than £20

The church is also in a quandary. While accepting that an anti-divorce policy is untenable with so many marriages breaking down, they are divided over whether to make a stand or take a pragmatic view. The Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, Bishop of Birmingham, and an outspoken critic, says the 12-month rule will mean "the state will no longer regard marriage in principle as a lifelong union of a man and a woman".

The group, Gingerbread, which represents one parent families, says the Bill is putting the "cart before the horse". The attitude of men, they say, is "if you want equality get on with it". But equality does not exist, so it will mean hardship for women.

The group points out that the vast majority of ex-wives do not get maintenance. Research shows that only 12 per cent of newly-divorced women live solely on maintenance (although two out of three get some payment from husbands) and the number halved 10 years after separation. Of those receiving money from ex-husbands, 75 per cent get less than £20 per week. Concluded

Reagan wins the war and writes the history

In the last of three articles on the US intervention in Grenada, Trevor Fishlock relates how President Reagan, convinced most Americans and some people abroad, that what he did was right.

The Americans have closed their detention camp in Grenada. The use of 10 stifling wooden packing cases as isolation cells for prisoners undergoing interrogation had caused bad publicity at home, and the Americans naturally do not want the generally favourable image of their Grenadian episode to be tarnished.

President Reagan has largely been successful, not only in his military and



The right image: US troops preparing to release a member of the revolutionary army.

political objectives, but in presenting his case. He has convinced most Americans, and some people abroad, that what he did was right.

Some of what the Administration has said has strained credibility and there has been a strong strain of misinformation and disingenuousness in the presentation of events. But it is goals that count.

The Administration wins at the word invasion. So too do quite a few people in the Caribbean. The Administration explains, with an air of weary patience, that it was a rescue of

medical students and the oppressed Grenadians.

The supposed peril of the American students is still disputed. The day before the invasion, the Reagan Administration said they were not in danger. Afterwards it said they were. The head of the medical school said there was no danger. After he had been visited by Administration officials he found that there was.

Had the students felt endangered they could have left. The Administration said the airport at Pearls was closed on October 24, so that students could not have got out had they wanted to. The airport, however, was open and several aircraft flew out.

The call for help from the Organization of East Caribbean States, on October 22, three days before the invasion, was

useful as justification. But it was not vital, any more than the request for help from Sir Paul Scoon, the Governor-General who said his request, dated October 24, the eve of the invasion, reached Barbados through non-diplomatic channels.

President Reagan had, in any case, ordered urgent invasion planning on October 20. And there is some evidence that

action was considered at least five days before, including a possible rescue of Maurice Bishop, the former Prime Minister, from house arrest.

The Administration inflated the number of Cuban military people on the island. In the end it agreed with Cuban figures. It made much of the arms and documents it discovered, to bolster its assertion that, as President Reagan said, Grenada was "a Soviet-Cuban colony being readied for as a major military bastion to export terror" and "We got there just in time" to prevent Cuban occupation.

Apart from anti-aircraft weapons, the arms were not all that impressive at first glance and, to some, seemed not much more than might be trawled from a Texas suburb. Washington also invented a "mass grave" to emphasize the savagery of the regime and had to climb down when no such grave was found.

The American press was angry that the invasion took place without reporters being there.

The American military establishment, it is said, had noted British restrictions on reporters in the Falklands. There is a strong view among US military men that reporting of the Vietnam war led to public disenchantment, that the press was unpatriotic.

Of course, reporters were allowed into Grenada eventually, but this was against the wishes of the military commanders. They were overridden by the President. Concluded

US troops come under fire again

From Christopher Thomas St George's

Five United States soldiers came under fire while walking through a heavily wooded area in central Grenada, the American Army announced here yesterday. It was the first attack on US troops in four days and the fifth since the American invasion.

The soldiers, all technicians, were walking along a track in the Grand Etang area when they noticed two men walking in the same direction 50 yards ahead. One of the soldiers noticed a concealed rifle carried by one of the men and shouted a warning. With that the two men spun round and opened fire with rifles.

The US Army said the technicians fired back with pistols and the men fled. There were no injuries on either side and no indication whether the men, both of whom wore identical blue shirts, were Cubans or Grenadians.

News of the attack was announced on the day that the military also reported a substantial reduction in the number of combat troops in Grenada. In the last few days their numbers have been reduced from 2,300 to 1,900 and more will be moved out. All combat troops will have left by the December 23 deadline set by the White House.

American Airlines announce an easier way to fly two for the price of one non-stop to Dallas.

From now until December 31st 1983, when you accompany a passenger paying the full round-trip Business Class fare, we'll fly you round-trip from Gatwick to Dallas absolutely free of charge.

And should you and your flying partner wish to continue your journey on to Houston, it will cost you only £55 extra return.

All you have to do is choose one of our non-stop Gatwick to Dallas flights on either Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday.

Then leave the rest to us.

After all, we're the only airline that flies non-stop to Dallas.

And pampers you with award-winning service.

Just think of it. Now you can each have a wide, comfortable seat all to yourself.

You won't need to take turns sipping your complimentary cocktail.

Or haggle over the free head-set we provide for in-flight entertainment.

Or suffer the indignity of having to share a dinner plate.

With over 800 American flights daily between more than 75 major US cities, getting where you need to go is as easy as getting there for less.

For further details on our two for the price of one offer and other information, contact your travel agent or ring American Airlines on **American Airlines** 01-629 8817 The all American Airline



Remember the past, Churchill tells CND

British disarmament, however desirable, could never take precedence over the maintenance of peace in a nuclear age, Mr Winston Churchill, Conservative MP for Daryhulme told students at the Oxford Union.

He was opposing the motion "That Britain can and should remove all nuclear weapons from her shores." It was defeated by 215 votes to 195.

He said: "There is no merit in disarmament if it undermines peace, only if it betters peace. There is another way forward without the reckless gamble of unilateral disarmament."

And Mr Churchill had a particular message for the secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Monsignor Bruce Keast and others espousing the cause of one-sided British disarmament. Said Mr Churchill: "Remember the lessons of history".

Pointing to a plaque on the wall behind the seat of the union president, Mr Neale Stevenson, Mr Churchill said during Monday night's debate: "Four of your predecessors gave their lives in the last war."

We have already paid the price of one-sided disarmament in the past."

He added: "CND, the Communist Party of Great Britain, the Labour Party and Russia all invite you to give up 40 years of freedom but the people of this country expressed their vote on that in June."

Supporting the motion, Mr Denzil Davies, Labour MP for Llanelli and deputy Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, said there was no military or political case for bringing cruise missiles to Britain. "The West can already destroy Russia 20 times over and cruise will not give extra deterrence. Cruise has not coupled America to Europe, it has de-coupled the Western Alliance. What is happening is that we are seeing waves of increasing anti-American feeling in Europe."

"The real danger of cruise is that it could lead to German isolationism followed by German nationalism. That is why we should send cruise back. Its presence will create the tensions which could lead to nuclear war."



Mr Winston Churchill: "Another way forward"



Mr Denzil Davies: "No case for cruise"

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Thatcher forced to fight on three fronts at Commonwealth talks

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Soon after Mrs Thatcher arrived at Palam airport on a chilly Delhi morning she got her first taste of what the atmosphere of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting will be like.

At a meeting with Mrs Indira Gandhi, who will be hosting the conference, Mrs Thatcher heard the Indian Prime Minister's views on three of the main concerns of the conference: Namibia, the world economic order and the arms race.

On each subject the conference will attempt to put Mrs Thatcher on the defensive: on each the British have no well-defined position to explain and to try to gain understanding for.

On Namibia the African delegations are expected to demand some kind of action to break the log-jam caused by the linkage of further movement towards independence with withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

The discussions on southern Africa will be formally opened by President Nyerere of Tanzania and he is certain to press the Western five-nation contact group represented here by further progress.

At Melbourne two years ago the contact group nations, which also include West Germany, France and America,

were able to say that things were moving and that they should be allowed to get on with it. This time the concept of "patient diplomacy", which Britain will be arguing in favour of, may be more difficult to put over.

The difficulties may be reduced by the fact that the discussion on southern Africa will not take place until next week, by which time the Commonwealth leaders will have been on retreat to Goa where in an informal atmosphere such problems may be ironed out. But the presence of Mr Sam Nujoma, leader of the South-West African People's Organization (Swapo), in Delhi lobbying delegations to support his cause will not make it easier.

Much of the discussion may centre on a proposal that President Shagari of Nigeria has floated for an African Commonwealth contingent which may be able to replace the Cubans in Angola.

The British response is that they will be seeking to have some flesh put on the bones of his proposal before they can say whether they think it has any chance of success.

President Shagari will be among the keynote speakers at the opening session today. Also speaking will be Mrs Gandhi; Mrs Thatcher; Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime

Minister; and the youngest head of government in the commonwealth, Mr Jeremia Tabai, President of Kiribati - which was more familiar as the Gilbert Islands.

On the world economic order, Mrs Gandhi, as chairman of the non-aligned movement whose summit meeting prepared a long document on the needs of the developing world, is anxious for clear progress to be made.

Mrs Thatcher, who will preside over the next summit meeting of the seven industrial nations in London in June, will be anxious to explain that the developing countries can best be helped by a continuing reduction in the rate of inflation and the interest rates and a growth in the level of economic activity.

● Tiger topics: The future of Indian tigers was the main point of talks here yesterday between Mrs Gandhi and the Duke of Edinburgh (AFP reports). The Duke is president of the World Wildlife Fund and Mrs Gandhi is associated with "Project Tiger", started 10 years ago to save threatened Indian tigers. The prince and Prime Minister were attending anniversary celebrations of the project, which has helped to create 14 tiger reserves in India.



Andropov gets a mention in Pravda

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Pravda, marked the anniversary of Mr Yuri Andropov's first speech as party leader last year, but only mentioned his name once in yesterday's front page editorial.

Ten days ago the Soviet press ignored the anniversary of Mr Andropov's election as party leader. The Communist Party newspaper published an article in memory of Mr Andropov's predecessor, Leonid Brezhnev, which criticized the slackness and inefficiency of the Brezhnev years but praised the former leader as an "outstanding figure" who had laid the basis for Soviet policies.

Yesterday's front page Pravda editorial recalled Mr Andropov's promise at the November, 1982, Central Committee plenum to improve Soviet living standards. The article praised the subsequent drive for efficiency, labour discipline and economic growth. Most of this was in general terms, however, and Mr Andropov's name was not mentioned at all in connection with the second Central Committee plenum of his leadership in June this year.

The third plenum was due to be held this month but has been delayed, apparently because of Mr Andropov's illness. He has not been seen in public for over three months.

Battle on Soviet jet leaves 7 dead

Moscow (Reuter) - Seven people were killed in a gunbattle on a Soviet airliner after eight young hijackers tried to force it to fly to Turkey, informed Soviet sources said yesterday.

They said that the group, which came on board in a wedding party, commandeered the airliner after it took off from Tbilisi, Soviet Georgia, on an internal flight last Friday to the Black Sea port of Batumi.

Shooting broke out after the pilots fooled the hijackers about their route and landed at Tbilisi again. Three crew members and three passengers were killed, the source said, as well as one of the hijackers who was believed to have shot himself.

Georgian television announced the incident over the weekend but said only that a "number of people" had died. The source said that there were five men and three women among the hijackers, some of them the children of prominent Georgian officials and cultural figures.

They went to the airport after a wedding party in Tbilisi with the bride and groom.

The crew members who died were the chief pilot, the flight mechanic and a stewardess.

Government officials have been told that the hijack appeared to have been well prepared. An investigation has been launched into how the group by-passed strict security controls and smuggled weapons on to the airliner.

Eanes crumbles and sacks army chief

From Marinha de la Cal, Lisbon

Submitting to pressure from the Government, President Eanes of Portugal yesterday reluctantly dismissed the Army Chief of Staff, General Garcia dos Santos. His decision came four months after the Cabinet of Mario Soares had first asked for the general's dismissal.

General dos Santos, who is 47, played a prominent role in the army coup that restored democracy to Portugal in 1974. He was the last of the predominantly left-wing army officers who took part in it to retain a high active post in the armed forces.

He has been a strong supporter of Portugal's role in Nato, but has often publicly criticized the alliance partners for failing to give adequate material aid to the Portuguese military.

President Eanes, who had appointed General dos Santos to head the army, chose to ignore the Cabinet's request last July to dismiss him. He was then forced to comply this week after Dr Soares wrote a letter saying that the Cabinet's wish should be carried out within two weeks.

The President's spokesman said: "The decision to acquiesce to the wishes of the Government over a problem not of the President's making was taken to prevent conflict at a time when the country is experiencing serious difficulties."

President Eanes had earlier consulted General dos Santos and other general staff officers.

This test of strength between the President and the Soares Government is indicative of the tensions between them. It is also an indication of the struggle between the military hierarchy and the civilian politicians for control of the armed forces.

The tension has its basis in the fact that under the constitution the President and the government are elected separately. President Eanes, a left-leaning political independent, has twice been elected by large majorities. No single political party has been able to win an overall majority in parliamentary elections.

Dr Soares's first minority government fell in 1977. His second government - split apart

in the summer of 1978. When he refused to resign as Prime Minister, President Eanes dismissed him. The two have since clashed both publicly and behind the scenes.

The right-of-centre coalition governments which came after the Socialist-Christian Democrat coalition were thwarted at every turn by President Eanes, who vetoed their laws as unconstitutional according to the Marxist-oriented constitution then in effect.

Last year, the political parties worked together on a revision of the constitution which stripped the President of many of his powers - including the right to appoint a chief of staff of the armed forces.

A new defence law put the armed forces squarely under the order of the civilian Minister of Defence. The Council of the revolution, made up of the officers who carried out the 1974 revolution and which has been influential in the years that followed, was dissolved.

Although the majority of the armed forces are now non-political, many officers openly expressed their fears that this government and the previous right-of-centre Government were bent on undoing many of the changes wrought by the revolution.

Another reason President Eanes gave for giving-in to the demands of the Government to dismiss General dos Santos was that he wanted to prevent a conflict that was essentially between himself and the Government from extending to include all of the armed forces.



President Eanes: Personal conflict with Government.

Naples poll blow to the left

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Sighs of relief from coalition parties marked the declaration of results in a round of regional and municipal elections in Italy. The Communists, however, were punished losing Naples.

The Government was certainly in need of stimulus. In particular, the Christian Democrats were anxious for a good showing to prove that their general election setback in June was temporary.

The regional results showed a drop in the Christian Democrat vote but only of 2.5 per cent compared with the last regional elections in 1978.

In Naples the party won back a chunk of the votes lost in the general election. In Reggio Calabria it dropped a little by comparison with June but remained well ahead of any other party. On balance, the country's largest party can be said to have stemmed fears of vote disintegrating.

Signor Bettino Craxi, the country's first Socialist Prime Minister, required good results to give credence to the historic change which his premiership entails.

The Socialists held their position in Trentino-Alto Adige and advanced in Naples and Reggio Calabria and the Republicans also either lost nothing or won ground. The real surprise was the Communist failure.

The Communists have now lost Naples which they had administered for the past eight years and, in Reggio Calabria, they fell back 8 per cent by comparison with the June election.

The sounding of the electoral vote was in fact strictly limited - under a million voters were involved and the one region concerned, Trentino-Alto Adige, can scarcely be regarded as typical because of its special ethnic problems on the northern frontier.

Yet great importance was attached to the contests because they represented the first electoral test faced by Signor Craxi's Government since its formation five months ago. Interest was enhanced by the Government's internal difficulties and Signor Craxi's own uncertain handling of them.

While others were toying with the idea we forged ahead with business development

Say hello to the Fortune System 32:16. The remarkably powerful desktop computer that the magazine Practical Computing said 'could well replace a minicomputer for most office purposes, and described as 'much more user friendly than the average computer'.

It's not altogether surprising, since the Fortune System 32:16 is not your average computer.

Whereas most micro computer hardware and software today is derived from the home/hobby computers of a few years ago, the Fortune System 32:16 was designed specifically for small to medium sized businesses, or departments of large companies.

Based on the highly successful Motorola MC68000 microprocessor chip, it looks like a micro, is as easy to use as a micro, and costs a typically micro price. Yet it behaves more like a minicomputer. The operating system it uses, for example, is UNIX, the powerful and internationally accepted system normally found only on large computer systems.

It's a genuine multi-user computer. Your first workstation can be easily expanded to a number of workstations complete with multiple printers. All users are supported with up to 1 megabyte of main memory, 31 megabytes internal disk storage, and a range of built-in expansion options.

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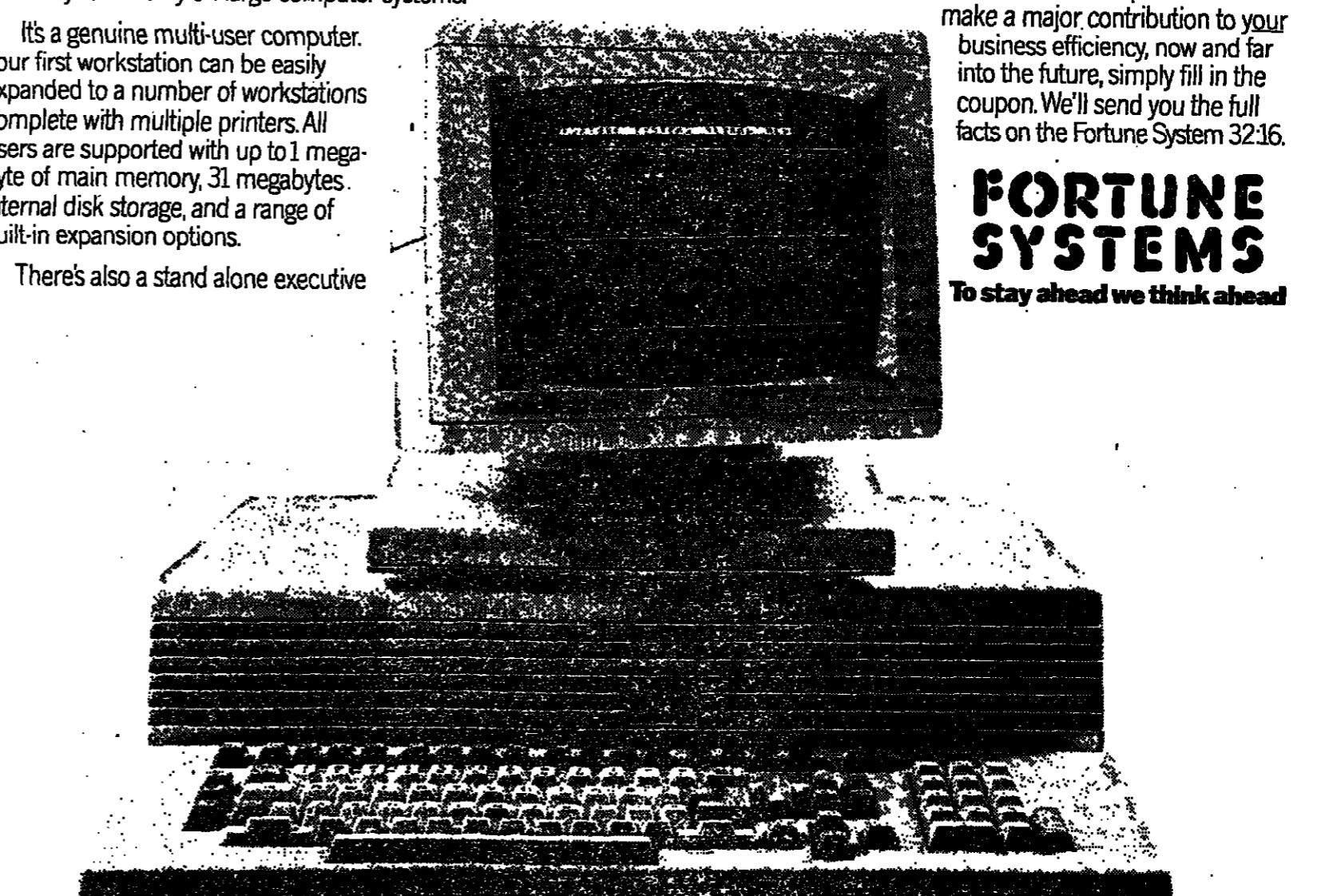
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British cabbie charged with murder

Los Angeles (AP) - A British cab driver apparently implicated himself in a voluntary statement about the disappearance of six people, the Los Angeles Times said yesterday. He indicated that the victims may be buried in the desert north of here.

Ashley Francois Paule, aged 43, of London, was charged on Monday with six counts of first-degree murder in the disappearance last year of six San Fernando Valley residents.

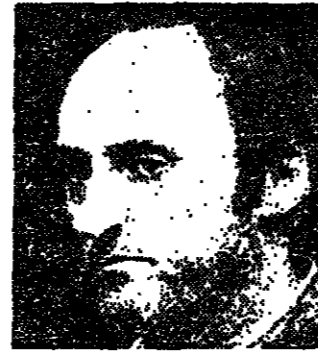
Mr Paule, who was allegedly in southern California during the disappearances, returned here with a Scotland Yard detective to make a statement.

Mr Paule and another Briton, Harvey Rader, aged 41, were arrested last Thursday.

The District Attorney, Mr Robert Philibosian, said evidence indicated that Peter Davis, aged 55, and his wife,



Mr Rader: Released after four days.



Mr Paule: Believed to have implicated himself.

Joan, aged 45, were killed during a burglary at their Granada Hills home in March last year.

On October 12, 1982, Elaine Salomon, aged 39, her daughter, Michelle and her son Mitchell,

were killed in their Northridge home during another burglary. The Superior Court ordered that Mr Paule be held without bail. Charges were not filed against Mr Rader and he was released on Monday.

Brandy goes to Hongkong's head

From Richard Hughes, Hongkong

Alcoholism is a growing social problem in Hongkong as local Chinese follow the heavy drinking habits of foreign residents.

Since the mid-1970s Hongkong has become the world's

largest per capita consumer of brandy and the fifth largest in overall terms, importing 400,000 cases of brandy a year - about one bottle for every man, woman and child.

Mr Lachlan MacQuarrie, head of the Hongkong Polytechnic School of Social Work,

said - a recent survey has shown a switch from taking Chinese wine with meals to Western beverages.

Hongkong, according to Mr MacQuarrie, was likely to resemble Japan, where alcoholism has become a social problem

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SPECTRUM

Design for high living

Georgina Howell meets David Milnaric, one of Britain's leading interior designers, a perfectionist who believes that decoration should become an integral part of the building

For a designer who never aims at grandeur, David Milnaric decorates an awful lot of palaces. He is at the moment at work on the British embassy in Paris, a first category monument and the residence of Napoleon's sister, Pauline Borghese, until the Duke of Wellington bought it complete with contents soon after Waterloo. In London he is redecorating the magnificent Aspinall Curzon House Club before beginning work in the Brussels embassy, an eighteenth century court house remodelled between the wars and filled with imported Viennese rococo.

One of Britain's leading interior designers, he is also a frequent adviser to the National Trust, and produces garden furniture with the Duchess of Devonshire from Paxton's workshop at Chatsworth. He already has so much work under way for 1984 that he could not fit in his Queen Anne hunting box at Park Lane flat into his schedule with difficulty. Even if you were prepared to wait, and to pay, you might be disappointed. Several times over the last few years David Milnaric has been summoned to country houses, and even abroad, and having been dined and wined and taken all over the house has finally said, "Leave it as it is." It is not unusual for him to reduce the commission to a single contribution - mixing up a pot of paint to reconcile incompatible upholstery and curtains, or applying a coat of varnish to tone down a wall that is too bright - because he does not regard himself so much as an arbiter of taste as an upholder of architectural values. As Christopher Gibbs, antique furniture dealer and old friend, puts it: "He flays the room down to the bones. He is the antithesis of the interior decorator who enters a room and says, 'Magenta here, dear.'" On the other hand, if he takes your house on he will not rest until he has achieved some kind of perfection, which he defines as decoration responding so directly to the architecture that it becomes an integral part of the building. He is a perfectionist in a medium whose resolutions are reached through trial and error. Miles of calico are sacrificed to the six or seven toiles he will make for curtains before his team is permitted to cut into velvet or damask, and he recently sent back

some French curtain-trimming 16 times before he was satisfied with the colour and weight. Milnaric made his name in the 1960s with work of a very different kind. Good at bold, quick effects, he was particularly successful with ingenious settings for dances, such as a Chinese pavilion in peacock blue fretwork with good lanterns, a masterpiece of battenning, gauze and gold cardboard, or a bandstand of orange and yellow ribbons supported by matching gas-filled balloons. Caught up in the vortex of London life, he was soon decorating houses for Mick Jagger, George Harrison and Eric Clapton; he once advised a client to paint his entire flat in purple and lime green.

The son of a furrier who arrived in England before the First World War from Slovenia (later Yugoslavia), Milnaric was educated at Downside, where he remembers admiring the fine Gothic lines of the nineteenth-century abbey church. His original intention was to be an architect, but after two terms he transferred to the Bartlett School of Decoration where he was taught on the "good old Beaux Arts principle" of seeing through drawing.

He began by removing acres of gold paint

For six months we drew an elevation of three columns of the Parthenon measured to scale and coloured with Chinese ink washes. When we had got that right, we moved on. Three years later he took his portfolio, complete with the last school project, a golf club restaurant, to Hicks, Fowler and Inchbold in search of a job. Fowler was the only firm to turn him down, ironically since Milnaric was to step into John Fowler's shoes as National Trust adviser when he died in 1977. He was taken on as office boy at Michael Inchbold, where he extended a two-month trial into two years before leaving the country to spend six months measuring and drawing buildings in Rome. When he ran out of money in Paris on the way home he had to go to the British embassy for help and found himself examining with interest the outside of the building he would redecorate 20 years later.

"When I got back to Victoria Station I saw London with Roman eyes. I can remember how homely, small-scale and agreeable it looked, with that good old W1 muddle of white stone and red brick." He was now only one move away from setting up on his own. From an educational stint in an architect's office learning the practical details, he took John Singer Sargent's former studio in Tite Street and moved in with one commission, to remodel and



David Milnaric: "The British are genuinely envied for their sometimes down-at-heel way of life" (Photograph by Don McCullin)

redecorate a flat in Cadogan Square. "For the first time I knew the satisfaction of upgrading a set of rooms by removing the postwar conversions and restoring the proper proportions."

One job well done led to another, eventually to his first important house, Millicote Park, an 1830 Greek Revival house in Shropshire which had been a school and now needed to be tailored to the requirements of a young family. The finished house was seen by Country Life's architectural writer, historian John Cornforth, who was impressed by the way David Milnaric had used paint to stress the architectural values of the great hall, and was instrumental in bringing him to the attention of the National Trust.

The Trust commissions began with Beningbrough Hall in Yorkshire, a handsome eighteenth-century house that had survived virtually intact and was being prepared to receive the National Portrait Gallery loan of a fine collection of portraits. Milnaric stepped in at an early stage after John Fowler's death, and began by removing acres of gold paint from the Great Hall, and stripping 150 years of paint from the columns. "It seemed that the simpler it was, the better it looked."

Most of Milnaric's clients today are the well-heeled British, America and French, which has given him a certain insight into the difference between the nationalities and the way they live.

"To American women, housekeeping is a discipline second to none. The presentation is a daily ritual, with fresh flowers, new books, scent sprayed around, pictures moved week by week. Their clothes are equally trim, but one suspects that a Mrs Regan is more interested in the straightness of her hem than the fabric."

The French, he says, are the most stylish of all. Their drawing rooms are the grandest: "It would be unthinkable to find the children jumping on the sofa or a dog lying in front of the fire." The lifestyle of both nationalities, he says, require enormous effort and can be a tyranny. The British are genuinely envied for their comfortable, undemanding, sometimes rather down-at-heel way of life. "We love sash windows, turned bannisters and moulded panel doors. This must be the only country where even architects prefer to live in Victorian houses."

His own family are just an open door away from his present office, a Chelsea studio with a gallery and great dark green fireplace, and any of his three children might pick up the phone. The portrait that hangs over the fire is by Rex Whistler of Mrs Milnaric's mother, Angela Dudley Ward, later Lady Laycock, and her sister Penelope.

After 23 years of work, Milnaric has become adept at striking a balance between the architectural requirements

of a building and its present purpose. Embassies, he says, are working houses, not museum pieces to be judged by their historical accuracy. In Washington, where the embassy is a Lutyns house, he decorated the drawing room for the then ambassador, Lady Henderson. "My first response to a Lutyns is to be very calm and quiet. But as the room was used for shaking hands before dinner with an enormous number of guests, we treated it in a different way and made it as warm, light and welcoming as possible."

In Paris, on the other hand, the accuracy of the Empire decoration was the point. "It is on a par with the decoration you can see at Compiègne, Malmaison, Fontainebleau and the German embassy so carefully restored after the war. It was a tightly defined style with a life of only 14 years. Madame Recamier would have had it, a nobleman living in the Auvergne would not." After months of careful detective work, Milnaric and John Cornforth, who now reappeared as the Foreign Office's consultant on historic buildings, discovered that the loom and jacquard for the correct Empire damask still existed in England and were able to recreate the wall hangings for the Salon Rouge. Apart from the obvious difference between working on an embassy and a private home, Milnaric found that the embassy meant mountains of paperwork. "The Property Services Agency operate their formula whether you are doing up a palace of a police station. Why should we be any different? For chrome taps read gold leaf."

"I'm beginning to believe in the craft revival"

He is concerned for the grammar and vocabulary of architecture which has almost disappeared, and believes that most people can sense an anomaly even if they can't identify it. "For instance, there's a very good eighteenth-century building under the flyover at Hammersmith which is a bus station. Good English baroque with two great garage doors bashed in it for the buses. Anyone could see that the elevation was wrong even if they didn't know how it was meant to be." If we lack an indigenous progressive style, he says, it is because of our disregard for the old architectural values, and the arrogant assumption that we can leap blind into the future.

Nevertheless, he views the post-Comran world with confidence. "The new generation takes an enormous interest in design although they can't afford quality, which has become today's great luxury. They are bored with The Real Thing - terracotta tiles on the floor, scrubbed pine tables and earthenware bread crocks. They want cheap, effective glamour: Jostina James' Paint Magic, swag curtains in calico. As usual, the retailers are far behind the customers and the designers."

At his own rarified level of decoration, he says: "There are never enough skilled people, although you can find a great range of crafts if you are prepared to wait. Working on site at Curzon House the other day alongside bricklayers, painters, gilders and plasterers, I suddenly realised that for the first time in years there were more young people present than old. I'm beginning to believe in the craft revival."

moreover... Miles Kington You can't boycott Boycott

The rest of the Sports News. Ex-king Geoffrey I of Yorkshire was adamant in exile today that he would be back, even after the bloodless coup that deposed him while he was on a state visit to South Africa. "Make no mistake about it, I shall be back", he said from his numbered Swiss chalet in the hills above Geneva. "My people will rise and overthrow the new government and then I will return. Make no mistake about it. I shall be back."

Although the English football team has been knocked out of the European Championship, the English fans are safely through to the next round, where they will meet the French police. Johnny Thunder, manager of the England fan squad, had no apologies to make for the alleged rough behaviour of his men in Luxembourg after their thrilling victory against the Luxembourg Army. "At this level of football supporting you don't take prisoners, I thought our lads were magnificent. This is what the Falklands spirit is all about - marching into a place and messing it up a bit before sorting it out."

Yorkshire rebel leader Yasser Boycott was being driven deeper into the northern hills last night, as loyalist committee members brought their heavy communications into action against rebel members. Civilian damage has been heavy; many families are reported to have fled to the pubs to get away from the incessant exchanges round the dinner table. But Boycott will be hard to dislodge entirely; his position implacable, not to say impregnable, not to say dead end. Our front-line correspondent reports: "This beautiful county, so tragically divided by warring groups, now lies in ruins..." (continued yesterday)

Another great night for European soccer tonight, as the British clubs go into action to avenge the national exit from the European stage. M6 Wanderers have the hardest task against an in-form Dynamo Service Area of Holland, who put out Sporting Bollard in the last round; star striker Jackie Robson reported with two fractured legs, this morning but hopes to come through a late fitness test. Glasgow Presbyterians should have no difficulty in building up a 3-0 deficit away to Dredna Atheists while Glen Shamrock carry Irish hopes to faraway Tursh Spjoi in Albania.

Wild rumours are flying round Yorkshire as to the health of ailing statesman Yuri Boycott, who has not been seen in public since sensational reports of his dismissal first started two months ago. He was conspicuous by his absence from the annual parade of Yorkshire pre-war trophies, nor was he to be seen during the Hutton birthday celebrations, when traditionally all Yorkshiremen go out and get maudlin. Is he dead? Has he finally been run out by someone else? Or is he, as the latest rumour says, bating on alone on some distant pitch, 34 not out on the fourth day?

The announcement of a prize for any international rugby team that scores more points with tries than penalty kicks has been greeted in all informed quarters as a practical joke. Or, if it is true, it is given no more chance of success than last year's trophy for any journalist who could honestly start a rugby report without saying: "Although perhaps totally lacking in handling and running skills, this match was the most exciting for many a long year."

General Boycott, architect of Yorkshire's defeats last year, is to be court-martialled for his part in the county's disgrace, it was announced yesterday. The general, who is under house arrest by an unnamed newspaper, was not free to comment last night. "Coming soon: extracts from a sensational new book. Spotting the Chinaman, in which it is claimed that Geoffrey Boycott was recruited as a youth by an unnamed foreign power. Only in Moreover, a sub-division of Mark McCormack Worldwide."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 209)

Grid for the crossword puzzle with numbers 1-27.

- ACROSS: 1 Object of superstition (6), 4 Red salad vegetable, 7 Ties (4), 8 Haphazardly (8), 9 Porcelain art (8), 12 Gossipy woman (3), 15 Regional dialect (6), 16 Walk aid (6), 17 Prominent rock (3), 19 Unbranded call (8), 24 Granite (8), 25 Timber cutting tool (4), 26 Mythical monster (6), 27 Pill (6). DOWN: 1 High-pitched flute (4), 2 Three-month period (9), 3 Women's quarter's (5), 5 Open to debate (4), 6 Naval vessel (5), 10 Maxim (5), 11 Gather fabric (5), 12 Likely to kill (9), 13 Annoy (6), 14 Location (4), 18 Snell (5), 20 Unlawful burning (5), 21 Contention (5), 22 Lengthwise (4), 23 Sassy (4).

SOLUTION TO No 208: ACROSS: 1 Spills 5 Beck 8 Ritz 9 Obvious 11 Intimate 13 Bawl 15 Potentate 18 None 19 Operator 22 Accuser 23 Curse 24 Dons 25 Yipps. DOWN: 2 Feet 3 Lay 4 Shooting party 5 Bury 6 Choral 7 Frail 16 Sale 17 Most 18 4 Fr 15 Panache 16 Anna 17 Frenz 20 Tuna 21 Isle 23 Cap.

David Miller

Trying to go faster than Concorde - without leaving the ground

I was with some surprise that the mechanics who supervised the successful British attempt to recapture the world land speed record would pull back the cockpit cover of Thrust 2, after a near-supersonic run, to find the driver, far from being reduced to the semblance of a pallid aspen leaf, sitting there writing notes about the car's performance.



Ever since Richard Noble was six years old, and saw John Cobb's water speed record boat Crusader on Loch Ness, it was his ambition "to drive a vehicle of outrageous horse power". Thirty-one years later, not much has changed. He still has that wide-eyed, uncomplicated enthusiasm which makes adventurous small boys such splendid companions. While tens of thousands of people were absorbed last summer in the British campaign for the America's Cup, Noble was less conspicuously, but more hair-raisingly, engaged in relieving the United States of another sports trophy whose equally dramatic



The next British bid will have to be at supersonic speed well above 760 mph

history is woven around such celebrated figures as Henry Segrave, Malcolm Campbell, George Eyston, Cobb and Donald Campbell. His recapture of the record, with the assistance of some 220 sponsors and contributors, at speeds faster than any civil aircraft other than Concorde, is a remarkable story going back to the start of the pipedream in 1974.

With the record now standing at a phenomenal 633 mph, Noble is convinced that when the Americans have recaptured it in a few years, the next British bid will have to be at supersonic speed well above 760 mph. He has promised his wife Sally that he will not drive again, but he will be impatient to put all his knowledge and experience behind making a new project. "We'll find a driver and train him," he says with a grin, confident of discovering another adult school-boy. Finding 220 industrial and commercial backers is as important as Peter de Savary, Noble cannot privately finance his particular hobby. After school at Winchester, he sold paint and then Crimpless fibres for ICI - £60m a year of the stuff for three years - until he feared he was in danger of becoming as boring as Crimpless, and set off with four girls and another man on an expedition, London-to-Cape Town, in a 13-year-old Land Rover. His explanation of the four girls is that they were more free of ties than most men: he married one of them. In 1974, while working for Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, he decided on Project Thrust. There would be a series of three cars: an experimental jet, then a vehicle sufficiently capable of demonstrating high performance to gain financial backing, then the record attempt. Noble sold his domestic motor car, bought a motorcycle and garnered £1,000 capital. Thrust 1, with a Rolls-Royce Derwent 8 engine from a Meteor fighter, a knock-down at £200, and assembled in a garage at Thames Ditton, achieved nearly 200 mph and a testing noise-level which vibrated the neighbours out of bed. Thrust 1 came to an abrupt end in 1977, when a wheel-bearing failed at Fairford airfield, and the car triple-flipped upside down. Noble undid his seat belt, fell out on his head unharmed, and was left with nothing more than £175 of scrap value. Yet the seeds of interest had been sown: the RAF took note, and when he lectured to senior officers at Adastral House, Noble was asked how his Thrust

help. He said: "How about an obsolete Lightning?" The Ministry of Defence duly made available an Avon 210 and, begging a truck and a crane, Noble transported it to Twickenham. The problem now was to build a vehicle around the 34,000-hp engine eight times as powerful as Bluebird, with a 650 mph capability. Unqualified to design it himself, and with no money to advertise, Noble put out a press release: "Sir, received 160 replies. Eventually John Ackroyd began work in an 'office' house. Advertising at the Motor Fair at Earls Court, Noble had an interview with representatives from Tube Investments. They arrived at midday instead of 3pm. Our adventurer felt obliged to entertain them to lunch, and after paying the £65 bill, project Thrust was flat broke. An hour later they had agreed to underwrite and build the tubular frame. Noble continued his employment with GKN, working on Thrust

5.30am to breakfast and from supper-time to midnight. Initial Services laundry had put in a substantial sponsorship bid by early 1980, with the car scheduled to run in May, the project was three weeks short of closure through the pressure of bills. Noble was obliged to face Initial Services' directors with the truth, only to discover they had doubted their cheque before the meeting began. Now GKN gave him 18 months paid leave. British Aerospace provided wind-tunnel testing facilities and a more advanced Avon 320 engine was bought. But the setbacks continued. At Bonneville Salt Flats in the US the next year, Thrust 2 exceeded 500mph, only for flooding of the dried lake to halt its progress. Preparing for a new attempt in 1982, Noble crashed the car at 190mph when testing at Greenham Common airfield, the parachute brake failing, and the damage required a £50,000 refit. Arriving late at Bonneville, the car was not even unloaded; it was raining, and the flooding was measured in feet rather than inches. "We felt we couldn't return home and face the sponsors without running the car, so John Ackroyd went north to look at Alford Lake in Oregon, and I went south to Black Rock Desert at Gerlach, north-east of Reno in Nevada. We chose Black Rock." No one has ever raced on the mud flats, which are washed by a swamp tide, which in summer dries out leaving a 15-mile flat surface on billions of saucer-sized polygons. These have a slight movement, which cushions the solid aluminium wheels perfectly. They planned to run in June, 1983, but the mud had not dried. Ackroyd went as advance reconnaissance to report daily on the state of the wicket; the 250 population of

Gerlach's little railway town got busy with posters and streamers; now the Bureau of Land Management gave environmental approval, and the schoolchildren expectantly wanted mornings off and a free seat in the world's largest stadium. Eventually, Thrust 2 arrived in late August after its £20,000 air ferry in a 747 freighter to Los Angeles, and the team of 26 started the laborious job of preparing the 16 lanes of 50 widths each - none can be used more than once - at rate of five miles a day, removing every stone as big as a cigarette end, plus a few unexploded shells. On a slim budget, every day counted. "Two runs a day are a maximum, you are so drained afterwards," admits Noble, who has undergone intensive training with the Royal Military Police, achieving Grade A in the army physical fitness assessment after severe work with weights, swimming and running, tearing a knee cartilage on the way. Run 11, starting at 15.30 on October 4, with a 5 1/2-mile approach run, produced speed of 624.241 mph over a measured mile. The return run, with a six-mile approach and the decibels exceeding bearable pain limits, lifted to 642.971 mph with a maximum 650.88. As the 1,500ft high dust-cold settled on the cheering crowd of 200, the record was Britain's with a 633.468 average. With the moment of history now gone, he is left, when driving down English motorways, with uncomfortable withdrawal symptoms. Thrust 2, after exhibitions, will retire to the Beaulieu Museum; the spare wheels and brick-brac of an historic project will be auctioned next month by Christie's, the proceeds shared by the crew. And Noble pipe-dreams about a car "which will do something really big - say between 900 and 1,000 mph".

THE APPOINTMENT OF MAGISTRATES

Justices of the Peace in England and Wales are appointed by the Lord Chancellor except in the counties of Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside where they are appointed by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Appointments are made on the recommendation of local Advisory Committees. The Committees welcome nominations of persons in all walks of life who are thought to have the qualities and time to serve as a Justice of the Peace. Any person or body may recommend a candidate for appointment. Recommendation forms and information on the selection process and what is involved in being a Justice of the Peace are available from the Secretary of the local Advisory Committee. His name and address are obtainable from the office of the local Clerk to the Justices. Lord Chancellor's Department | Duchy of Lancaster Office Thames House North | Lancaster Place Millbank | Strand London SW1P 4QE | London WC2E 7ED

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Private medicine's serious shortfall

One in 15 people in this country now has private medical insurance. But how many have read the small print, let alone between the lines? MARY ENSOR tells the story of a baby in an incubator in a private London hospital since her birth

earlier this year, Laura Schwable is covered under BUPA's top benefit scheme in a hospital which claims to work within these rates. The problem is that Laura's uninsured 'extras' are running at over £1,000 a week



Jenny and Victor Schwable with Laurel: can private health care cope?

Until the Portland Hospital for Women and Children opened in June this year with a special care baby unit (SCBU), there were no intensive care facilities for babies in the private sector in Britain. All very sick babies born in private hospitals, even in the most expensive American-owned clinics like the Humana in St John's Wood, had no alternative but to be rushed to the nearest National Health SCBU, where they are almost invariably treated free.

Hospital Capital Corporation, who owns the Portland, has been bold in entering this field. Along with special care, the Portland offers neonatal intensive care ("neonatal") describes a baby under 28 days old, a branch of medicine in which astonishing advances have been made in the past two years.

Unfortunately, although this is one area in which the NHS does have not yet been deep, even large London teaching hospitals are already turning away babies who might otherwise be saved: St Thomas's SCBU cannot admit babies one day in three and those at Guy's and University College Hospital are so understaffed that they are operating at two-thirds capacity.

Some NHS consultants voice grave doubts about the private sector's ability to cope with such specialized treatment. But since pregnancy complications are covered by health schemes and one in 10 babies born after difficulties in labour needs immediate life support, it does seem to make sense to many people with insurance to go to the Portland, where they offer SCBU alongside the comforts of a hotel.

Victor and Jenny Schwable certainly thought so. They are a young middle-class couple who

acquired BUPA cover in a way which is becoming increasingly typical - Victor's firm offers medical insurance on the London scale as an employee "perk". When it became clear that Jenny's second pregnancy would be difficult, her consultant gynaecologist suggested the Portland because the baby would almost certainly need special care.

On August 20 this year Laura Schwable was born. Three months premature, and weighing just over 1lb 11oz, she went straight into an incubator in the new unit. A few days later she had heart surgery. While the parents agonized over Laura's struggle for life, the hospital administration woke up to an appalling situation it should have foreseen: the exceptionally tiny baby was so ill that her only chance of survival lay in months of the most specialized nursing. A large proportion of the massive cost would be incurred by items which BUPA specifically excludes from claims.

Within a couple of weeks of the birth, the Portland sent BUPA a bill for £4,205 to cover hospital care. On September 10, Victor Schwable sent BUPA a bill he had paid for the birth itself: £1,180. He then paid and sent off more bills, totaling £1,010, for the surgeon's fee for the heart operation and further care. BUPA normally claims to turn bills around within 48 hours but it was not until October 10, exactly a month after he had sent off the first one, that Victor Schwable learned from them that he was liable for nearly £1,000 of the extra charges. There was a shortfall of £345 on the bill for the birth (BUPA disputed the charge) but what really alarmed the Schwables was that they also owed £583 of the £4,025 the hospital had claimed for care. When Victor

phoned the local BUPA branch manager he was told that this was the sum by which the hospital's initial bill had exceeded BUPA's total annual limit of £330 for "diagnostic and paramedical services". The amount of £583 was simply the first instalment in one category of charges that would be the parents' sole responsibility from then on.

At this point, little Laura had a relapse and the Schwables, who had borne the strain well up to now, became temporarily distraught. So it was not until October 14 that Victor, confused, upset and angry, confronted Ron Staker, chief executive at the Portland, and demanded an explanation of his liabilities to date.

Mr Staker did not want to alarm him. Everyone at the hospital was anxious about the baby, Laura's consultant, Dr David Harvey, had said he did not want the parents to worry about money. Harvey, who dresses elegantly and drives a black Porsche, heads the medical advisory committee at the Portland and runs a private practice which includes among the patients Prince William and other royal babies. He is also consultant paediatrician at Queen Charlotte's and if anything had gone wrong he would have transferred Laura to the NHS.

At this meeting, according to Victor Schwable, Mr Staker produced a photostat sheet detailing these items: pathology, radiology, ultrasound, X-rays and physiotherapy. Laura, in just eight weeks, had needed £4,107 worth of care, some £3,777 over BUPA's annual limit.

On October 19 Victor Schwable said that he simply couldn't believe that he would be expected to pay a bill of £4,000 to £5,000 so far.

But conversations with BUPA confirmed the limit on diagnostic and paramedical services and also revealed that the Portland's £250-a-day basic charge for intensive care left a further shortfall of £579.60 a week. Consultants' fees, after BUPA's contribution, merely added another £40 to this weekly bill.

Mr Schwable had failed to decipher BUPA's benefit terms and was only confused over the extent of his cover for the consultant's fees. But it gradually became clear that the hospital was worried that BUPA might not cover the excess charges and even now the Portland's negotiations with the insurance companies are so inconclusive that Mr Staker prefers to call them "discussions". In the event of BUPA not paying, the Schwables would have to be asked to contribute "what they can afford".

The problem facing Mr Staker and the Portland is that BUPA bases its top benefit plan on rates charged by the London teaching hospitals. According to Mr Staker: "Charges for private patients in NHS hospi-

als are completely unrealistic. It's a quarter of the real cost of treatment. Not only are babies like Laura treated free, even adults aren't charged properly for the use of an operating theatre and the only charge for X-rays is the consultant's fee. They don't charge at all for medical and surgical items - consumables."

A potential hazard for private hospitals now is that many recent advances in medicine look like good business but the insurance companies, while publicly avowing commitment to all levels of private health care, are incapable of coping with the bills. Any BUPA-owned hospital would have sent Laura (if it could have found a space) to an NHS unit for intensive care. The capital investment required is so great that few private hospitals of any sort can match the public sector where serious illness is concerned.

So a heavily weighted proportion of seriously ill patients are inevitably subsidized because they have to go private within the NHS. BUPA even offers cash bonuses to subscribers

who arrange to get NHS treatment free.

the private Cromwell Hospital which offers exceptional facilities - renal dialysis, renal and cardiac surgery, bone marrow transplants (particularly expensive) and the only private radiotherapy unit in the country - the technical limits set by BUPA's top London Plan are simply ignored. As part of "a very good relationship", the Cromwell has regularized the fairly widespread system whereby BUPA "doubles up" cover in serious cases. This would mean, for example, that the limit for baby Laura's diagnostic and paramedical charges rises from £330 to £660. Ron Staker took it for granted that "doubling up" would apply to Laura, but it is not mentioned in the published details of benefits, and the BUPA branch manager told Victor Schwable quite clearly that £330 is as far as they go.

The Cromwell sometimes approaches charities in desperate cases but, as it turned out, no such measures were needed to settle Laura Schwable's bill. BUPA, after

suggesting that the Portland send the baby in an incubator by ambulance to the NHS, agreed to make an open-ended commitment to total cover (excluding the bills which Victor had, perhaps foolishly, already paid).

The near 10 per cent of BUPA claimants who currently find their bills are not met in full may be interested to know that these discretionary payments are commonplace. Persistence is needed to get through to Dr David Gullick at head office: "I'm the tip of the iceberg" authorizing cheques for all sorts of things like outpatient psychiatric treatment and ambulance rides. "It is part of the BUPA pattern" that they currently spend about £1.75m, about 1 per cent of their budget, in this curiously ad hoc way.

When everything was finally settled, Jerry Williams, assistant general manager (operations) made an unsolicited phone call to make sure that the position was clear. He denied that BUPA is in financial trouble (although income barely outstripped payments in 1982) and denied the claim that the annual subscriptions are unrealistically low. He also denied that it is BUPA policy to avoid covering serious illness ("I believe that it is right that the private sector should be a stand-alone system and we ought to be able to provide the facilities for major surgery") and at the same time said that the payment for Laura Schwable would be made "ex gratia" and create no precedent for the future. "We've got now to sit down and work out a policy as to what we do cover," he said, setting a time limit on decisions which should surely have been taken and made public before the Portland's SCBU opened in June.

And what about the Schwables? Laura weighs 3lb 7oz, can almost breathe on her own now and as soon as she reaches 5lb her parents can take her home. They have no complaints about the hospital at all. Jenny Schwable is still hoping for a boy and she would like to have him at the Portland if she can.

Living up to the Marks standards

Mrs Elaine Blond lives, as befits the last surviving child of the founder of Marks & Spencer, within walking distance of its Marble Arch branch. She occasionally checks on the shop's quality and, if she sees a garment she disapproves of, buys one and sends it to the directors for their opinion. She is a great believer in keeping up standards.

She also believes in the Marks tradition of using money for the benefit of others. Today she is organizing a reception in London for the Blond Medicine Centre for Medical Research at which the Queen Mother, as patron, will be present. The centre, inspired by the work of Sir Archibald McIndoe, a pioneer in plastic surgery, was set up at East Grinstead 25 years ago by Elaine Blond and her husband, the late Neville Blond.

There have been many and various causes over the years - from helping to run a family planning clinic in the 1930s, to dealing with outbreaks of artistic temperament when her husband became chairman of the English Stage Company at the Royal Court.

They are not causes you would immediately associate with Mrs Blond at first meeting. The door of her flat is opened silently by a maid in a black uniform and the visitor immediately sinks ankle-deep into the pile carpet. Ten yards on, at the other end of the hall, a manservant is there to usher visitors through a door to Mrs Blond's second sitting-room.

Being 81 years of age has not hindered her social timetable. After our interview she was off to have dinner with her stepson, Anthony Blond, the publisher. The next evening she was entertaining 12 to dinner. No falling back on Marks & Spencer dishes, either, excellent though she thinks they are, as she has her own cook.

If it is a case of social life versus causes, however, the causes win. The Blond McIndoe Centre is very close to her heart. She and Neville met Sir Archibald McIndoe when they first made their home in East Grinstead

during the war. In the late 1950s they discussed setting up a research centre together, but Sir Archibald died at an early stage of planning.

The Blonds went ahead on their own and the centre's team of doctors and scientists is now working on methods of preventing rejection in reconstructive surgery. While the war was on, the Blonds gave up half their East Grinstead house to pilots injured in the Battle of Britain, the men whom McIndoe called his "guinea-pigs" in his early work on skin grafting.

"I used to have friends down for the weekend", Mrs Blond said. "We had a huge diningroom and I always arranged for the boys who were well enough to join us for dinner. A lot of friends found it very difficult to take, and the choice sometimes came between friends and the boys, so I had to give up some of my friends." Archibald McIndoe was a marvellous man, because apart from being a great surgeon, he was terribly good at keeping up people's courage and making them accept what had happened to them. Neville got the centre off the ground, and the Medical Research Council has been quite generous, but we could not keep going without private donations.

Mrs Blond became involved in her first major cause after her first marriage at the age of 22. She campaigned for family planning, along with Dr Edith Summerskill, and helped to open a clinic in Manchester where her family lived. "I held a big meeting in the playground of our home. Three of us, including myself, were pregnant at the time. We didn't think of it as birth control, but as family planning, and I wish they would go back to calling it that. We opened the first clinic in the city and I think we were pretty brave. There was a lot of opposition and every time we went there we had to be protected by the police."

"A lot of people were against my being involved. I certainly would not have been allowed to do it if I hadn't already been married, having



Elaine Blond at home: Blonds prefer causes

my own children. It was still necessary to explain the principle behind it - spacing your family and having the children when you wanted them. It was all quite different from nowadays."

Asked why she became involved in these causes, the answer is crisp. "I became involved in family planning because I believed in it. Marks & Spencer has always thought of the welfare of people; I am a member of that family, and was brought up with that philosophy. My father, who died when I was three, looked after other people before he looked after himself. I don't think one needs to look for a motivation for doing good, only for doing evil."

She is joint president of the British Committee of the Women's International Zionist Organization, which runs welfare and educational establishments throughout Israel and, more unconventionally, president of the English Stage Company at the Royal Court. Her second husband, Neville Blond - a Manchester businessman who became a chief government adviser on transatlantic trade - was the Court's first chairman.

"I don't always like their choice, but we are there to put on peculiar plays, let's face it. If it hadn't been for my husband, John Osborne would not have had a chance. His first play, *Look Back in Anger*, had been rejected by the other theatrical managements. I could never get over the fact that Neville was so patient with all of them. I would have murdered them, and I could never get over the way those directors nearly came to blows. The only time I ever interfered, though, was when members of the artistic committee were at our home discussing *The Entertainer*. They were against putting on the play, despite Laurence Olivier wanting to play in it, and I said: 'You're all naving mad. If you can get Olivier into your theatre, take it.' I think I did finally push them over."

No doubt Mrs Blond will be playing a part in the Marks & Spencer centenary celebrations next year. The centenary, in true Marks style, will be commemorated by each store in the country making a contribution to a local charity or cause.

Clare Colvin

ALAN FRANKS' DIARY

Caught by the Santa clause

Since the run-up to Christmas begins on December 27 each year, I feel we have done well this time to delay it by 11 months; but the hysteria can be stemmed no more. It will not be long now before advent calendars stand prematurely unopened on the mantelpiece and sad little drifts of aerosol darken the windows. Yet there is a more serious seasonal problem before us, namely the ambiguity of the religious lyric.

"Hulloed by thy name" is easy enough to accept as being a greeting to the Lord; but how do you explain the location of Orientar, where Westburie Kings come from? Or the identity of Gloria, until now just another girl in my daughter's class? Why is everyone planning to sing a song about her, and why has her surname become Hozannarinexchelsea? And why is the night suddenly holy? No simple answers.

My horrible lawyer friend *Harold Maitland* says I am mad to have had three children within five years. Whenever he says things like this, as he does frequently, I am always waiting for some wounding pay-off line, knowing the legal mind to be a subtle gilder. "Why did you not go the whole hog and have five?" would be a typical coda.

Instead, what do I get when I bump into him at the shops but the following: "My wife and I would be delighted to come and have dinner with you on Saturday." Before I can say "But you haven't been invited" (true), or "Sadly we dine that night with the Wellesleys at Le Gavroche" (not strictly the case), he says "Ciao!" and casts one of those prietern "poor little chap" looks at the baby in the pram, which his trade does so well.

When I relate all this to my wife she says that she and Mrs Maitland



had arranged some such occasion but that the date needed fixing. Apparently we owe them a meal (I would gladly let them have their old one back), and timing was to be left to the oh-so-in-demand Paris. Leave a ball in his court and he will prosecute it, Saturday it is.

Back to mundanities and Observation Number Three about the effects of childhood on new cars. We know that rusk-droppings munched down nicely from the baby seat into the carpet pile and that the wreckage of a two-bar kit Kat fits snugly into the cassette deck. What we didn't know is just how effective tin foil can be, when pushed through the heating grill, in short-circuiting the system. I never thought this "spacious family estate blah blah blah" would be so short of hot air.

Problems: My wife and I are overheard talking about opening up the fireplace and the children take this to be a way of eating S. Claus's entry. They also overhear me being told to remember that there are people coming on Saturday evening and I should never have replied: "Oh Christ!"

At last, an unambiguous Christmas lyric comes home from school; I quote it in full: "Good old Father Christmas, what have you got for me? 'Take your sack from off your back and let me look and see.' 'Here's a useful painting set, here's a box of toys, 'Here's a nurse and doctor kit for happy girls and boys.'" Refreshingly frank. Note how the playful young things heard the open-handed geriatric with the "good old" tag before moving gently to the mugging stage. So, Maitland, Maitland is utterly lost for words. A memorable moment.

as "useful" and the sexist readiness to the last line to app the healing rather than the martial art. Finally, look at the adjective "happy," so much less abject than "grateful" and more sensitive by far than "affluent". There is hope yet for the carol.

Why are the children so restive today? (Friday)? Why do they have that acquisitive glint in the eye? Why do they wear the expressions of keen young householders before the Harrods sale?

P. Maitland and his luckless wife are at the door now if I be again forgotten about his visit. I would know it to be him by the showy *sos-tenuo* on the bell. I suspect he hopes to wake the kids and foment a riot, the better to castigate us for our lax regime, and sport more of his "good sense" about childrearing. (What he construes as restraint and obedience in his own two is in fact nothing more than paralysis through terror.)

He strides into the dining room and asks my wife with the tender inflection of a prosecuting counsel: "It is true that you are still having broken nights, is it not?" At this moment there is the sound of small persons moving on the floorboards overhead. It travels down the stairs, then back along the hall towards us and the two senior siblings swarm in for an audience with Father Christmas, so easily confused with "Oh Christ" at this time of year. They are each holding one of my old football socks and are clearly bent on self-service at the toy bag. Seeing Claus in mufti and sootless from head to foot, they are thrown for a moment, but then launch with gusto into the Mugging Carol: "Good old Father Christmas, what have you got for me?" For once, Maitland is utterly lost for words. A memorable moment.

Thoroughly modern pudding

Will the recipe work with margarine? That was the question numerous readers asked when I substituted butter for the more usual suet in last year's Christmas pudding. Of course there is no reason why it should not. But the obvious question then is, why put fat in the pudding at all? So I made a fatless pudding, using wholemeal breadcrumbs too instead of white ones, and it really was rather good.

How good depends on the strength of your views on what the ideal Christmas pudding should look, smell and taste like. Mine looks dark, full of plump, glistening fruit, and not too solid. It smells very fruity, slightly spicy and discernably alcoholic. And it tastes as rich as it looks because all the ingredients are the best I can find or afford. It is well worth the bother of searching out muscatel raisins and even stoning them by hand if necessary. It pays dividends to grind fresh spices, or at least to check that they are not old and stale. Lots of fresh citrus zest adds a livelier flavour than candied peel, though serious

pudding fanciers may insist on both, and some demand marmalade too.

The point of using breadcrumbs rather than flour is that they make a lighter pudding, and nuts add interest to the texture as well as the flavour.

After discovering how cloyingly sweet some factory-made puddings are, I can understand why "no added sugar" is becoming a fad outside the health and wholefood world.

With all that dried fruit Christmas pudding certainly does not need much extra sugar, but a little does seem to improve the pudding-but that holds the fruit together. To make a fatless pudding, omit the butter and add 120mg (4 fl oz) medium sherry or port.

1 tablespoon each finely grated orange and lemon zest

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg

1/2 teaspoon ground cloves

110g (4oz) butter, melted

6 tablespoons whisky or brandy

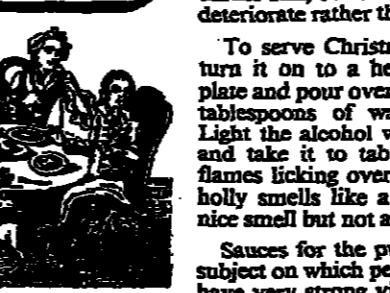
4 tablespoons milk

2 large eggs

Put all the dry ingredients, the fruit, crumbs, nuts, sugar, zest and spices into a large bowl and mix well to distribute them evenly. Combine the melted butter, spirits, milk and eggs in another bowl and whisk them lightly together. Pour the mixture over the dry ingredients and mix very well indeed.

Generously oil or butter one large or two smaller pudding basins and turn the mixture into them, leaving room for the pudding to rise a little. Cover the bowls with buttered greaseproof paper and foil and tie it on very tightly with string. It is very important not to allow water to get into the puddings during cooking.

THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

water to come about halfway up its sides. Bring back to the boil, reduce the heat to a gently bubbling simmer, cover the pans and steam the puddings for six hours, regardless of their size. (If you double the quantities to make one enormous pudding, six hours is still sufficient.) Add more boiling water from time to time to maintain the level.

Allow the puddings to cool, then remove the papers and replace them with fresh papers, not buttered this time. A little extra whisky or brandy can be added to the pudding before

steaming it for a second time on Christmas Day. Two hours steaming will make the pudding darker still, but the flavour may deteriorate rather than improve.

To serve Christmas pudding turn it on to a heated serving plate and pour over it about two tablespoons of warm brandy. Light the alcohol with a match and take it to table with blue flames licking over it. (Burning holly smells like a bonfire - a nice smell but not at the table.)

Sauces for the pudding are a subject on which people seem to have very strong views. I think brandy butter with lots of orange zest is bliss but not everyone agrees. Plain cream, whipped or runny, has its advocates, but home-made Christmas pudding can take something sweeter.

It might be a traditional English plum pudding sauce which in Scotland is, or was, called a candle sauce. It might be a German custard sauce of the kind Queen Victoria's chef Francatelli made, and which was more like a frothy zabaglione than like a custard as we know it. And of course it might be a real vanilla custard made with egg yolks and milk and not a hint of flour.

Candle sauce Serves eight to ten 250ml (8 fl oz) medium or sweet sherry 250ml (8 fl oz) brandy

1 tablespoon finely grated lemon zest

2 tablespoons caster sugar

225g (8 oz) butter, melted

Freshly grated nutmeg

Put the sherry and brandy in a pan with the lemon zest and sugar and heat them gently together. Stir in the melted butter. Sprinkle the sauce with grated nutmeg and stir it well just before serving.

Francatelli's pudding sauce Serves four 4 egg yolks 55g (2 oz) caster sugar 8 tablespoons sweet sherry

1 teaspoon finely grated orange zest

A pinch of salt

Combine all the ingredients in a bain marie or bowl. Cook over gly simmering water, whisking constantly until sauce increases in volume and becomes light and frothy. Serve immediately.

strained warm milk, whisking continuously. Return the mixture to the pan and cook it on a low heat, stirring constantly until the custard thickens a little. Do not allow it to boil or it will curdle.

Advertisement for 'DIVERSITY' Cookery School, located at 139/141 Fulham Road, London SW3. It offers a variety of courses and contact information.

Advertisement for 'ALTERNATIVE SHOPPING' featuring TEA, COFFEE, WHOLEFOODS, BASKETS, BAGS, BOXES, CARPETS, FABRICS, and RECYCLED PAPER CARDS. It mentions a non-profit making trust and provides contact details for TRADICRAFT.

Twenty years on, a look at an important attempt to curb the motorist

THE TIMES DIARY

Credit where it's due

After becoming one of the publishing sensations of the decade, The Far Pavilions has been made into a spectacular feature film...

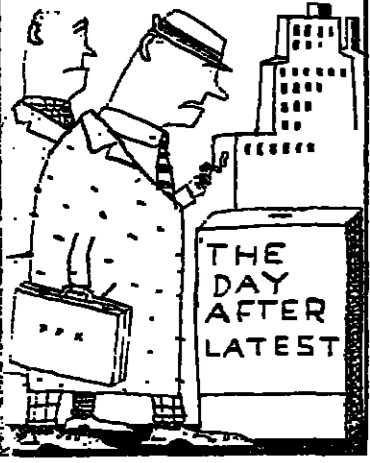
Tied results

A mutual admiration society has blossomed between Sir Geoffrey Howe and the Conservative MP for Ealing North, Harry Greenway...

'X' factor

A Christmas parcel which included some video films was brought to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office...

BARRY FANTONI



"If you missed the film, Larry, there's always the live show"

Egged on

Sir John Biggs-Davison, the Tory MP for Epping Forest, is familiar with the slings and arrows of protest endorsed by Michael Heseltine...

Negotiating talks?

Attempts to settle the dispute which threatens the bumper Christmas issue of Radio Times faltered on Monday night when print union leader Bill Keys was unable to talk to Robert Maxwell...

Rebounder

The citizens of Rugby voted "Flashman" the most popular name in a competition to find a name for a new pub being opened by Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries...

Still fleeing the beloved monster

If you know where to look on the quiet streets of Church House, Westminster, you may find cunningly concealed emblems and portraits in the flint work...

Some of the last succeeded, others bring but a wry smile as we thumb through the report 20 years later. But there was one calculated long-shot which found its mark...

Seeking an example, we hit on the notorious controversy at Oxford over plans to relieve The High Road of the heavy traffic so damaging to the character of this famous street...

At the time we were writing Traffic in Towns, however, the city council had decided in favour of a slightly circuitous route through Christchurch Meadow...

So we decided to insert a veiled paragraph which, though not openly critical of the council, for that would have been improper in an official report...

I would not claim for a moment that the rejection of the Meadow Road by the minister (Richard Crossman), after the inquiry, was solely the result of the application of Traffic in Towns doctrine...

Why then, after all the effort, is there still a torrent of traffic in The High? It is not as bad as it might be, for Oxford has taken a number of steps which would do credit to our report...

Why? It is too easy to say that there have not been enough resources to enable sufficient road works to be undertaken. The question is more difficult because it poses a dilemma which Traffic in Towns sought to resolve but without, I would say, much success in convincing the

Warsaw For several days in provincial Poland, the queues have been not just for meat, butter and bread but also for mirrors, dispensed in second bursts by a mysterious British faith-healer.

To portray the scene of gathered hopefuls would tax even the powers of Goya. Grasping small paper chits marked simply "heart" or "throat", the men sit open and elderly, stoically silent, their children peering, the fevered on stretchers, all wait for the moment that may change their lives.

At 6am, the sky still streaked with purple, Clive Harris, a small ordinary-looking man in his early forties, mounts the altar of a church and summons up the infirm. On an average day he will touch perhaps 8,000 people. Some of them will claim to have been cured, and others believe that their condition will improve for a number of months.

There is an extraordinary revival in faith-healing, personal astrologers, and mystics in this socialist Catholic country. It is no longer sufficient to divide the nation into those who explain the world according to the scientific laws of Marxism-Leninism and those who put their trust wholly in the divine will of God.

The wisdom of the countryside's superstitions, sprites, dybbuks, demons, and secrets have never disappeared from the Polish consciousness. Two factors now appear to be at work, prodding relatively sophisticated people as well as peasants back to the folk truths.



public that it really needed resolution.

It seems to be generally agreed that Traffic in Towns set people thinking in new directions. Its main contribution undoubtedly was to identify the adverse effects of motor traffic - death and injury in accidents, noise and visual pollution - and to weld them together and present them as a major social problem of our time.

As for the commercial road transport operators, I see not the slightest sign that they and their buccaneer drivers care two hoots about the environment. Small groups of people here and there make their protests but they carry no weight: the lorries just get heavier and heavier.

However, and this is where the contrast comes in, it is one thing for people to remain more or less indifferent to the effects of traffic as they are familiar with them, but if they sense a change in the wind, they rise in fury. All hell breaks out in the most remote rural areas...

Dislike, even fear of change, is at the root of this contrariness, and this is what we underestimated. We showed how areas of towns (we called them "environmental areas") could be protected from traffic having no business in the area, but this does involve re-directing the unwanted traffic along selected routes which would form a loose network.

We likened the principle to the system of rooms and corridors upon which large buildings are designed. In our discussions, we used the Temple in London as an example of the principle in practice, but we did not foresee that in 20 years the lawyers (ever ready to cite Traffic in Town in planning appeals) would have swamped the unfortunate precinct with their own cars.

The environmental area principle, sound enough in theory, had proved difficult to apply in practice. The diversion of traffic means more traffic on the roads selected for the network, and this produces its own outcry with the very environmental arguments of our report added in support. If a new road is required to

complete a link of the network, the hubblebub is even worse. Petworth, a charming little town in Sussex, desperately needs a bypass. But every route that is proposed meets furious opposition on environment grounds. Nothing gets done.

Money comes into it, of course. Urban road works are hideously expensive. In London, for example, property values being what they are, I should doubt whether there is now the slightest chance of reviving the road proposals of the Greater London Development Plan as modified by Layfield but rashly abandoned by the GLC.

Yet money is not the main stumbling block in the road of it is our love-hate relationship with that likeable rogue, the motor vehicle. Traffic in Towns was dead accurate in predicting that nothing was going to check the appeal of the motor vehicle. We are bewitched by the rogue's company.

As Geoffrey Crowther wrote in his introduction: "We are nourishing an immense cost a monster of great potential destructiveness. And yet we love him dearly."

We who wrote the document thought the monster could be caged and tamed, but he, artful rogue that he is, plays on emotions in such diverse ways that no one knows from one day to the next whether to love him or hate him or what to do about him. Did we perhaps in Traffic in Towns overstate the case, painting too lurid a picture of the monster's rampages? It is a matter for judgment, to which end I commend you, reader, to take a map, pick out a dozen towns with a pin, visit them, and see if you do not find, despite newly created oases of peace and quiet here and there, that the general picture is one of infestation by motor traffic to the point that you conclude it was no great fault after all to have been high-minded about the environment.

Colin Buchanan
Sir Colin is president of the Council for the Protection of Rural England.
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The Englishman with Poland in the palm of his hand

doctors cannot meet people's expectations. A country GP reckons to have at best nine minutes for each patient, during which the patient has to strip, be examined and diagnosed and get dressed again.

The second factor is that country priests, especially the younger generation, are more sophisticated than in the past - men with elaborate political opinions (usually with Solidarity sympathies), who read the newspapers and think about economics and what is wrong with the country, in their daily dealings in the parish they are concerned with power - persuading the village schoolteacher or a local farmer to make premises available for religious teaching, or touting for contributions to special welfare funds - rather than with the eternal mysteries.

Into this gap the faith-healer has jumped. In Gdynia, one faith-healer actually seems to cultivate a witch-like appearance. In Warsaw, Pawel Polonecki, a former boxer, holds Saturday-morning clinics. The most famous home-grown healer, Stanislaw Nardelli, draws crowds of more than 2,000 with rites which include instructing all the patients to join hands and form circles.

But the most popular healer in the country remains Clive Harris. For several years he has left his Wembley home twice a year, in April and November, to tour at least

up days before his arrival. Patients have to secure a document from their doctor certifying the existence of an illness. This document is then sent to the Harris tour organizers who select the several tens of thousands to be treated.

One reason Harris is trusted more than other healers is that he does not appear to be making any money from the tour. While many of the Polish healers have managed to obtain fast cars, Harris comes with a simple suitcase, stays at private homes, and performs in a simple open-necked shirt. How he lives when he leaves Poland nobody knows, and most people prefer to stay in ignorance.

Some priests and doctors as well as the hardline Marxists remain predictably sceptical. The usual discussion about what is or what is not a cure, what is attributable to suggestion or crowd hysteria has been held in medical circles. But a large number of young, intelligent people who have watched him at close hand are convinced that Harris is transmitting some form of positive energy to people.

"Some kind of psychosomatic explanation might be feasible in some cases," says one, "but how does one explain the curing of a two-year-old child, completely unaware of what is supposed to be happening? These things happen too often for it to be some kind of statistical coincidence."

Whenever the truth lies, the number of Poles who believe in the value of Harris and his healing now exceeds even the several hundred thousand who have been treated by him. Harris, though he may not like it, is the best-known Englishman in Poland.

Roger Boyes

Jock Bruce-Gardyne

Taken for a ride in the wonder car

If any readers have an hour or two to spare and an interest in the way in which the taxpayer and his money are easily parted, they could do worse than pop along to Committee Room 16 at the House of Commons this afternoon for the second session of the Public Accounts Committee's inquest into the de Lorean affair.

At this point I had better "declare an interest" - in the most literal sense. For I took an interest in the de Lorean affair from its inception. Quite simply, I tried to get it stopped. Needless to say I failed. For, in these matters, as Madame du Defiance used to say, "il n'y a que le premier pas qui coûte": knew Mr Roy Mason and his Northern Ireland Office had decided in the summer of 1978 to put the taxpayers behind Mr de Lorean and his wonder-car to the tune of £61m, we were in it, hook, line and sinker, to the bitter end.

So I found the PAC's first hearing, on Monday afternoon, of peculiar poignancy. For the committee got straight down to the business of seeking to establish how the Northern Ireland Office came to make that initial investment. It had before it Mr Ken Bloomfield, now head of the Northern Ireland Economic Development Department, and formerly head of the Ulster Department of Commerce. And he told it all - with conviction, and convincingly.

It was true, explained Mr Bloomfield, that McKinsey (the department's own consultants) had taken a rather bullish view. But the de Lorean scheme had already been evaluated by two other eminently respectable American consultancies, which had pronounced it a potential winner and murmured (presumably as they took their fees) that anyone was at liberty to quote them in its support. Mr Kinsey, in short, took "the most downbeat view... taken by anybody at the time."

It was also true that the Southern Irish had decided to withdraw. But Belfast did not know the reason - there had been talk of worries about bad industrial relations in Limerick, where the Dublin government was waiting de Lorean to go. And since Dublin and Belfast had appeared to be in competition for this appetizing prize, Belfast had not liked to ask. Besides, time pressed.

Indeed: here was the key to the whole affair. Mr de Lorean had not

just been in touch with Dublin. He had also been talking to Detroit and Puerto Rico. Detroit had made a bid of \$50m. Puerto Rico had made a bid of \$30m. Worse still, as a report from the Northern Ireland Comptroller and Auditor-General to the committee reveals (I think for the first time), the Welsh Development Agency had just joined the hunt. What the Scottish Development Agency was about I can't imagine: it must have been asleep. Mr de Lorean had made it clear he wouldn't even drop by Belfast unless they showed "the colour of their money" first. You bet he did: he knew a seller's market when he saw one.

It all rings true, doesn't it? Belfast had had a wretched year for plant closures and lost investment. Here was this friendly Midwestern gentleman offering to give employment to 2,000 Ulstermen - and not just any Ulstermen, but Catholic Ulstermen, to match the jobs provided for the Orange Lodges down the road at Harland and Wolff. Unless the Northern Ireland Office came up quick with cash (and since it was a "melancholy fact" that bribes to potential investors in Ulster had to be the dearest going, more cash than anywhere else, he'd be snatched up by those wily Puerto Ricans).

I was sorry Parliament decided to confide this post mortem to the PAC, and I still am. For the PAC's job is to investigate how cash is spent: it is not in the business of cross-questioning ministers about their decisions to commit it in the first place. It is concerned with how ministers have handled it: except by Parliament to find out what is going on.

It is therefore unlikely that the Labour ministers, Messrs Mason and Concanon (and the contemporary keeper of the purse-strings, Lord Barnett) or their Tory successors, Messrs Atkins, Shaw and Butler, will take the stand. Yet these are matters with which Parliament surely ought to be concerned. Mr Bloomfield has undoubtedly put his finger on how you go about it if you want to take the hapless British taxpayers for a monumental ride. You drum up bids from the four quarters of the globe; pull in the regional development agencies from the home front; and then you have a ball.

Phillip Whitehead

An all-out war for the all-in school

Every day in the streets of inner London we see a hundred small betrayals of state education. The radical chic with whom we have denounced Thatcher over many a caucoulet are sheepishly bundling their offspring into the Volvo, and away through space and time into the private sector. It's not for me, you know, it's for my daughter, they tell you, these unlikely Cossacks of the counter-revolution.

Every turn of the screw in the state sector, every appearance on television of the lubricious Nigel Lawson threatening further cuts, persuades them to cut and run.

As a parent of three children at state schools my first response, thinking of these braided defectors and the kids they have left behind, is anger. When my children feel puzzled and betrayed, and their school's ability slips further away from the truly comprehensive, outrage is natural. But anger is not enough. When even people who would agree that the rationing of education by price is indefensible on moral grounds nevertheless opt out of the state system for perceived short-term self-interest, we have to ask why.

The comprehensive schools are caught in an impossible vice. As the Government clamp on higher education tightens, so the middle-class parental nightmare increases. The percentage points at A level needed for university entry is being ratcheted up, year by year. These examinations, which already cast a shadow early in the comprehensive curriculum, loom ever more important, although they are despised to nearly a small number of those at school. And the state schools are under-resourced. Their outstanding success, in that sector of their work, in increasing the overall number of examination successes, is forgotten.

The unseemly queue to register babies at birth, or to switch children later for a system which guarantees a force-fed elite education, grows apace.

Until now it has been the private sector, left untouched by successive Labour governments in their unwisdom, which has been the beneficiary of the attack on comprehensive education. The 175 remaining grammar schools in England were scattered, shrinking, and often suffered in the falling share of real resources. Now, however, a new opponent of the comprehensives has entered the lists. Mr Robert Dunn, a hitherto obscure junior minister at the Department of Education and Science, has been calling on local education authorities to consider reintroducing a selective system. Second Front Now is his slogan.

Thus far Mr Dunn's strike rate is not impressive. Urged on by his guru from the Department, Stuart Sexton, Solihull education authority proudly introduced a scheme for the reintroduction of IQ-based selection at 11, after nine years of a fully comprehensive system. It was a system which had achieved notable successes even in the comparatively narrow field of A level results, subject to the differential that comes in any neighbourhood system which enables the well-off to cluster round certain schools.

Parental rumbling, when one such school had its catchment area redrawn because of falling rolls, seems to have prompted the Solihull to introduce their selective scheme. The chairman of the education committee was reported as saying that the creaming of 10 to 15 per cent of the ability range would "leave the comprehensive system more or less unchanged."

Conservative councillors in Solihull are clearly not streamered for ability, and their scheme has aroused ridicule and anger from teachers and parents alike. Next time, the comprehensive may not be so lucky.

Messrs Dunn and Sexton will also be heartened by the Gallup Poll last week which indicated that 61 per cent of those interviewed believed that selective schools are better able to draw out a child's exam potential. The poll, like the television discussion which followed, was muddled, and did not spell out the consequences of selection at 11-plus. But it strikes a warning note for the defenders of the comprehensive. They will need to mount a vigorous counter-attack.

But the comprehensives have to fight on two fronts at a time of falling rolls. They have to defend their curriculum to provide more for those pupils unlikely to tightly structured examinations, yet simultaneously prove that they can out-perform selective schools in the face of persistent denigration from the likes of Robert Dunn.

Paradoxically, their moment of maximum danger is also their moment of maximum opportunity. What Solihull showed is that there is an alliance in the making between teachers and parents wherever comprehensives are threatened by the reintroduction of selection. Even if they are forced to become unpaid dabblers at birth, or to switch children later for a system which guarantees a force-fed elite education, grows apace.

The real test for the Opposition is to mobilize the public concern about privatization in the campaign for the widest and best choice within the comprehensive system. That involves a commitment in detail to the priorities for funding which we tend not to hear four years from an election.

If some people are entitled to access to the best on offer, why not all? How can this access be justified by the chequebook and the covenant, as it is now? A private sector designed to make the world safe for the Sloane Ranger looks less alluring on close inspection. But every inducement, direct and indirect, is put in its way by the present government.

Until those prep school boys, the internal emigres of our street, have been disgorged from their Volvos back into my children's school I cannot see the battle for those schools won. Their parents, agitated by the abolitionists, tell me they are abolitionists too. In principle, of course, you understand. The author was a Labour education spokesman between 1981 and 1983.

P.O. Box 7, 200 O...

A FRONT

Germany has... First the... formally... of... mission... against their own... in government... opening a crack... which has held for... years. Then... the... Democratic... endorsed the... the new... These two... particularly... show a... and doubtful... for some time... loyal to the... Even the... have not... adopted the... finger. They have... that they do not... particular... their security... do not feel the... made sufficient... an agreement... that they are... to broader... a change in the... West Germany... very difficult... a major power... Western defence... dependent on a... year for its nuclear... as long as the United... overhanging... because the risk... low. With the... the Soviet Union to... two types of do...

LO

Agricultural Holdings... begun in... the House... introduced by... Bill. To arrest... the intended... the ambition... the modesty of...

The Bill puts into... a company reached... National Farmers Union... Counties Landowners... the union agreed to... three-generation... which it had been... the time of its introduction... years ago. The... to a new formula... to rent reviews... tenants, which... from open market... there no longer... answering that... and towards the... productive capacity of...

The introduction of... accession to tenancy... has not significantly... of decline in the... holdings (about 3,000... listings lost by the... roughly balanced by... of unwillingly exten... cases over land that... have been taken... But there are strong... grounds and much... evidence for believing... a succession right would... created the decline of... and tenant system... longer term. So its abolition... new tenancies, as provided...

English and Welsh... such a cultural... to home ownership... in a variety of... public and private... should be considered... For council housing... the conclusion to be... the budgetary provision... to be notified to... detail (emphas... associations has been... to be while... a departmental... to counteract... of council... The State's assistance... on low incomes was... to the welfare... be singled out... reductions: fairness... principles...

There is, to be sure, a... of abandoning the... consensus on housing... scale, and heaped... ministers delivering... in the public... with scant regard for... balance of... The role of... should be characterized...

STILL A

English and Welsh... such a cultural... to home ownership... in a variety of... public and private... should be considered... For council housing... the conclusion to be... the budgetary provision... to be notified to... detail (emphas... associations has been... to be while... a departmental... to counteract... of council... The State's assistance... on low incomes was... to the welfare... be singled out... reductions: fairness... principles...

كنا من الاصل



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

A FRONT LINE VOTE FOR CRUISE

West Germany has emitted two important signals over the past few days. First the Social Democrats formally repudiated the deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles...

emerged: that the United States might not risk its own annihilation in defence of Europe, or, alternatively, that it might try to confine a conflict to European territory...

could be a perilous exercise but not necessarily wrong if the road leads back again towards the centre before the next election. There is a reasonable chance that it will. Opinion polls show very considerable steadiness in West German opinion...

LORDS AND LANDLORDS

The Agricultural Holdings Bill, which has just begun its committee stage in the House of Lords, was introduced by the Minister as a Bill "to arrest the decline in the tenanted sector of agriculture".

the Bill, is a positive factor towards willingness to let. Experts disagree about the probable effect on rents of the proposed new formula for arbitration. If it has any effect it is more likely to be downwards than upwards...

landowners. It would mean treating that form of rent and that form of capital much more favourably than other forms. It would not be easy to make a case in public benefit for so large an exception.

STILL A CULTURAL COMMITMENT

The English and Welsh now have such a cultural commitment to home ownership, that, perhaps inevitably, renting in both public and private sectors should be considered a residual tenure.

a lightness of touch; a willingness to become "entrepreneurial," intervening in the market to buy, re-furbish and sell, to provide for such groups as the elderly and handicapped for whom the private market has little to offer.

add, equally blandly, that there is enough money in the kitty to provide home improvement grants for private owners when the rate of deterioration in our ageing housing stock will accelerate.

False dilemma on public investment

From Professor W. H. Butler Sir, Your excellent reporting (November 16) of the joint seminar by The Times and Coopers and Lybrand on public sector investment stands in sad contrast to your very uninformative editorial on the same topic.

is, by itself, not "a good thing". It does, however, help when one has a headache, provided care is taken to avoid an upset tummy. Public sector investment is not different. General government fixed capital formation has declined by almost 65 per cent in volume terms since its peak in 1973.

The 'privatization' of religion

From the Rev Dr Kenneth Slack Sir, The barstool book review I ever saw was also the most succinct. The reviewer commented that one element was missing from the book under review which was present in all other books he had read: "It is usually known as 'thought', he added."

From Mr M. D. Cawte Sir, In my editorial today (November 21) you make use of the term "the individual" no fewer than 13 times, excluding quotation from Dr Habgood's address; you cite God on only five occasions and then in one instance by reference to Tertullian.

The Nilsen case

From Mrs Susanne Dell Sir, David Nicholson-Lord is right to say (feature, November 5) that the law has come out of the Nilsen case "looking a bit of a clodhopper."

tory sentence the judge considers mitigating circumstances after conviction and before sentencing. If medical information is presented at this stage it will not consist of philosophical argument, but will focus on issues germane to the sentencing process, including the probability or otherwise of a hospital order being made.

Airline competition

From Mr Gordon Dunlop Sir, In Sir Adam Thompson's letter (November 17) he asserts that British Airways has benefited from a Treasury subsidy of £251m against currency fluctuations on dollars.

loans on which interest is paid at normal UK public sector lending rates. There is, therefore, no subsidy. British Airways does have other foreign currency borrowings, which are not subject to Treasury cover against exchange risk, and full provision has been made in the accounts of British Airways for the subsequent currency changes on these.

The wit of Keynes

From Sir Frederic Harmer Sir, Your recent review of the first volume of Robert Skidelsky's biography of Keynes (November 10) invites comment at several points, one of which I should like to pursue.

Keynes was a master of the throw-away line. Many of his had wide currency for their style and wit. Some indeed became collectors' pieces, as did his one. Keynes did not care for postscript. But he enjoyed the grotesque and I am sure he would have been pleased to see it raised to the dignity of an immortal principle and enshrined in a bower of deathless purple prose.

Communist policies

From the General Secretary of The Communist Party of Great Britain Sir, In your leading article of November 15 you support your attack on Monsignor Bruce Kent by distorting the position of the Communist Party.

since their prime purpose is to prevent the disaster of nuclear war. We believe that Britain should have an independent foreign policy which makes the search for disarmament a priority. Such an independent policy would exclude cruise missiles from our soil. It would involve British nuclear disarmament, not as an alternative to multilateral disarmament but as a great contribution towards it.

Tax and incentives

From Mr Ian Bryan Sir, Your comments on Thursday (November 10) re tax cuts and incentives needed to have placed greater emphasis on the high tax borne by the lower-paid, which is the major factor in producing the present anomaly of three million unemployed whilst employers cannot fill vacancies.

Test of time

From Professor J. Green Sir, The present Government is introducing a tax on electricity. This was predicted over 100 years ago. Mr Gladstone asked Michael Faraday about the practical worth of electricity. The reply was, "One day, Sir, you may tax it."

Football violence

From Mr Alfred Youngs Sir, There was a time when the name of England was respected on the field of international football. The skills of Stanley Matthews and Bobby Charlton, among others, were enjoyed and admired by European crowds and the visit of our teams looked forward to with keen anticipation.

of backing US efforts to destabilize and dominate them. The subservience of Mrs Thatcher and her Government to the Reagan Administration is a menace to our people. It is our view that the threat to world peace comes from the actions and policies of the US Government. The invasion of Grenada, present developments in and around Lebanon, and insistence on sitting cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe confirm us in this view, which is increasingly shared by the British people.

Your entire editorial is based not on theology, nor even on a misunderstanding of theology, but upon an enfeebled political philosophy which is Erastian in its intent to view the Church as a mere collection of separated beings who happen to possess similar views. That, Sir, is not the communion of saints, it is a club.

fact he could get skilled staff such as toolmakers but, in spite of using agencies and advertising, could not fill junior clerical posts. An 18-year-old earning £75 a week pays over 25 per cent by way of income tax and National Insurance contributions (I appreciate these are two quite different deductions, but the employee's first thought is for his or her net "take-home" pay).

18) a sigh of relief has echoed around the French countryside that the European championship hosts have been spared a large-scale invasion of what he rightly describes as an army of violent English criminals. Surely it is not beyond the wit of ourselves and our European neighbours to devise a system whereby visiting supporters are segregated from those of the host country. In addition to fighting on the terraces, the recent brawling in the streets of Luxembourg is a national disgrace, calling for drastic action by both sporting and civil authorities.

Even-handed From Mr Noel Curran-Briggs Sir, The Police Studies Institute survey (report, November 19): Britannia semper felix. Whether country's police force would have the courage to commission a report such as this and accept its findings? Yours faithfully, NOEL CURRAN-BRIGGS, Le Fauleux, Bertric-Burte, 24320 Verteillac, France.

Child benefits From Mr Bryan Jefferson Sir, It was reported yesterday (November 21) that the family of the Liverpool sextuplets might soon be involved in a deal worth half a million pounds. Is this likely to achieve a place in the book of records as the finest example of cash on delivery? Yours faithfully, BRYAN JEFFERSON, 70 Wimpole Street, W1, November 22.

JOIN THE PEACE MOVEMENT.

For the last 20 years or more the British Army has been involved in many peace-keeping missions around the world.

At this moment we have troops stationed in places as far flung as the Lebanon, Belize and Cyprus (in addition of course to the Army's well known task at home in support of the Royal Ulster Constabulary in Northern Ireland).

It's a rewarding task, certainly. Peace will always remain an ideal worth striving for.

Yet paradoxically, it is rarely achieved with good intentions and soothing words.

The harsh reality is that the maintenance of peace can often be a bloody affair.

And, as a young Army Officer, it can stretch your abilities almost to breaking point.

In the crossfire.

Six months after leaving Sandhurst, for example, you could find yourself in the middle of someone else's civil war.

In the Lebanon, perhaps.

Here, you could face as many as five or six political and religious factions, at war for very complex reasons.

In the struggle for peace, you may end up feeling you're nobody's friend and everybody's Aunt Sally.

You'll need all the talents of a skilled diplomat.

On occasions, you'll have to make a stand in the thick of the crossfire.

Would you have the courage and dogged determination to see the job through?

Closer to home, you could also spend some time in Northern Ireland.

Some members of the community there are opposed to our presence. A few of them violently so.

Yet there'll be no taking sides.

In the course of your duty, you and your men may be subjected to extremes of provocation.

Could you keep a tight rein on your emotions, even under fire?

Jungle warfare and social work.

In Belize, you could face a different challenge. Your job will be to police the borders.

You'll be confronted by a jungle terrain that will test your powers of physical endurance to the limit.

Moreover, in an area as volatile as Central America, the threat of trouble is never far away.

Quite a challenge 5,000 miles from home.

The British Army also has a force deployed in Cyprus, as part of the UN peace-keeping mission. We play an active role.

As an Officer there, you could find yourself helping the local communities.

You might supervise the distribution of supplies to an isolated village or settle a quarrel about water.

You could mediate in a land dispute between farmers on the edges of the UN Buffer Zone.

How are your talents as an arbitrator?

A spell at Sandhurst.

Needless to say, we won't throw you in at the deep end.

Before you take your first steps as an Army Officer you'll undergo a rigorous training period at Sandhurst.

First of all, we'll put your body through a punishing course in physical fitness.

Then we'll tax your brain.

You'll study social science and international affairs. Gain a grounding in military law and theories of government.

And most important of all, learn the skills of leadership.

From then on, as an officer in the peace movement, it's up to you.

If you would like to know more about a career as an Army officer, please write to:

Major John Floyd, Army Officer Entry, Dept. P4, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR.

Tell him your date of birth, your school or university and the qualifications you have or expect.



Army Officer

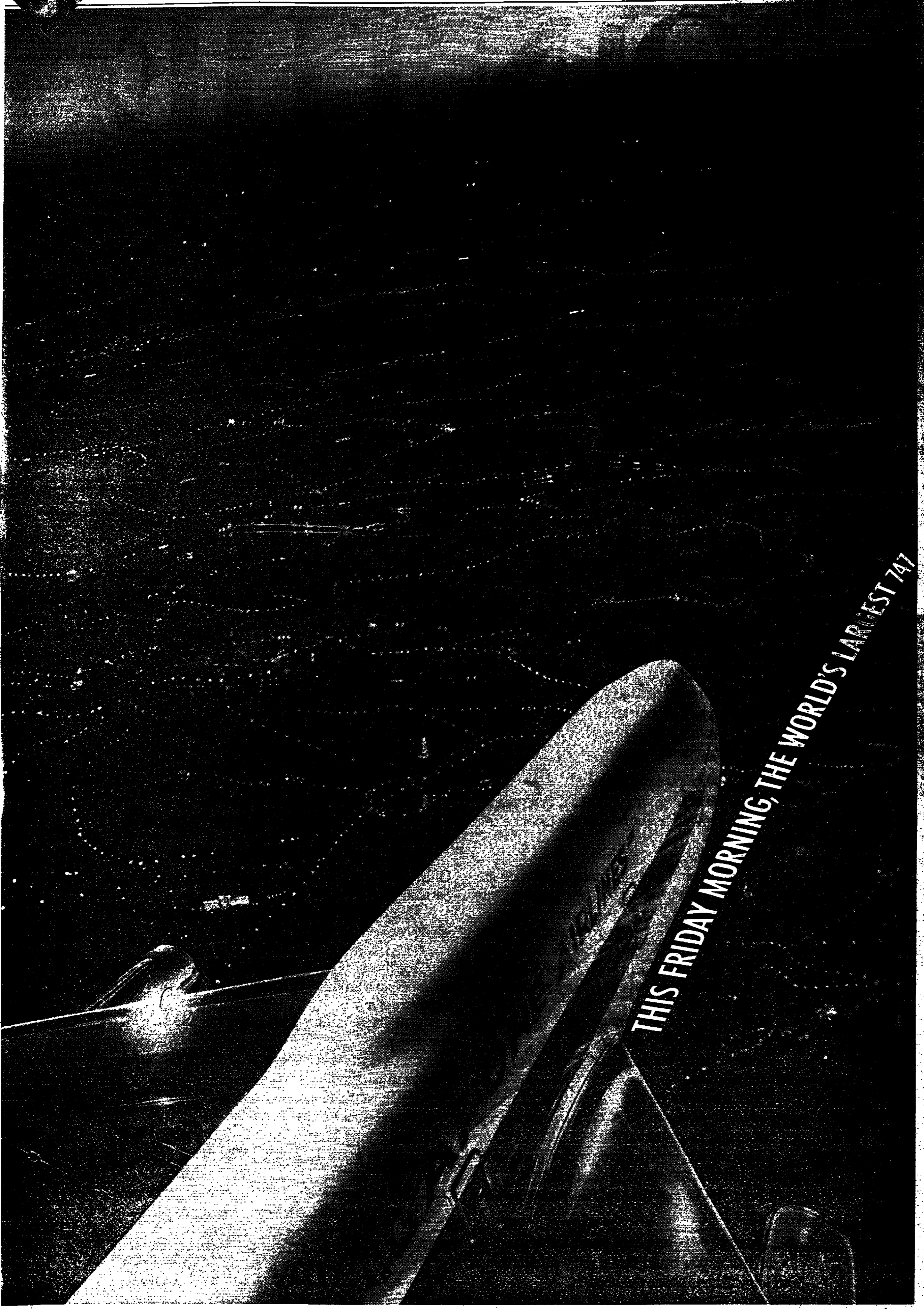
Don't lose any sleep if you miss the plane on Friday. You can always catch it on Saturday. Or on Monday or Tuesday. From November 25, Singapore Airlines will be flying this remarkable aircraft

from Heathrow four times a week as part of their daily service to Singapore. Appropriately, the 747-300, with its stretched upper deck, has been dubbed BIG TOP by SIA. It is an outstanding example of aviation technology.

It has a gross take-off weight of 377,846 kgs. (That's the equivalent of over 45 double decker buses taking off at once.) And it is powered by four Pratt & Whitney engines, each developing 54,750 lbs of thrust. Yet, despite this increased size and power, this

plane is actually quieter than a... However, what is most... isn't the exterior... SIA has had it laid out... upstairs deck is twice...

best design...
 The...
 On the...
 remove...
 portable...



THIS FRIDAY MORNING, THE WORLD'S LARGEST 747

CAN BE SEEN

سكنا من الاصل

been designed as a single cabin to accommodate the Business Class.

On this private floor, you have your own bar service, movie facilities and galley. The seats are as wide and comfortable as you'd expect and set only two abreast. So

you have the choice of sitting by the window or the aisle. Downstairs, the First Class cabin is one of the most spacious in the world, with every seat a fully reclining Snoozzer.

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CAN BE SEEN IN THESE AREAS: BATTERSEA POWER STATION 6.24, WESTMINSTER 6.25, CHELSEA 6.26, FULHAM 6.27, ARRIVING HEATHROW 6.30.

LARGEST

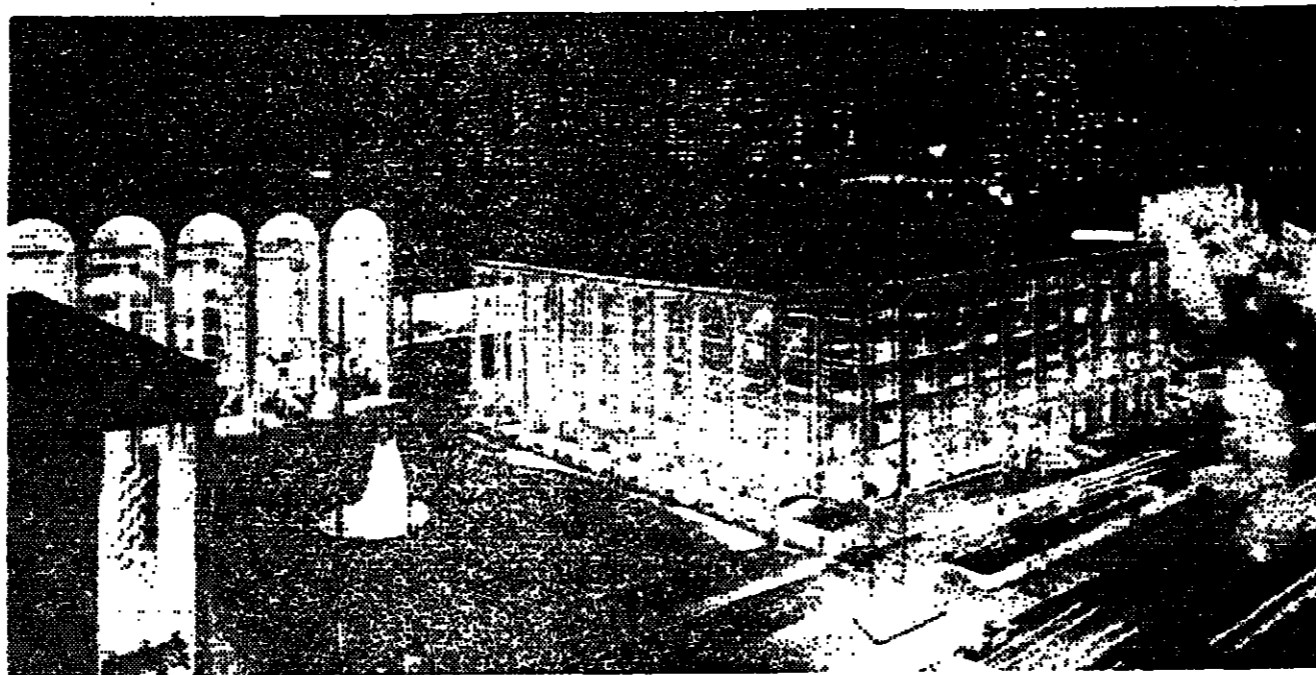
Scheduled flight path and times are dependent on conditions on the day.

THE ARTS

The Vivian Beaumont Theater at New York's Lincoln Center has failed to live up to high hopes, and is now the subject of bitter dispute: Saraleigh Carney reports

Theatre with a stony silence

Lincoln Center Plaza: light but all too little sweetness



In 1965 the New York Concrete Industry Board cited the Vivian Beaumont Theater at Lincoln Center as the best concrete structure erected in New York that year. This was the last unqualified good thing anyone had to say about this building. Now Peter Brook has been tinkering with the acoustics for his current production of Carmen.

Corporate Fund Drive and from the underground parking garage. Last year, the theater received \$489,000 from these sources. The sanctions are the culmination of Lincoln Center's unhappiness over the lack of progress toward establishing a strong organization devoted to drama.

Lincoln Center Theater Company. In December 1978, with much ado, five artists were selected to form the theater's directorate, an Crinkley, modestly described as administrator and coordinator, announced: "From time to time we will use guest directors, but the spine of the season and the thrust of the artistic policy will be the directorate. We will make decisions collectively."

Both Segal and Crinkley agree that funds should be expended in a prudent fashion, that they have a public responsibility to do so, and that it is time for the Beaumont to move forward. They disagree, in every case, as to how these goals can be accomplished. Segal sees expenditures for staff and unrealized plans as wasteful; Crinkley maintains that you "can't expect donors to support a white elephant, so we have to change the white elephant."

When the Beaumont first opened, a disgruntled performer compared its backstage corridors to the Titanic and suggested that the most appropriate use for the main auditorium was to fill it with water and put a whale in it. "Obviously, a big power struggle is going on," observes Edward Albee, the playwright-in-residence. "I don't know what the problem is. But I think there is a problem we don't know about."

Television The truth of fable

One of Ourselves (BBC 1) may have seemed a romantic account of Ireland in the Fifties but that hardly mattered; William Trevor's stories are invested with a melancholy if sardonic grace which affords them the truth of fable rather than of ordinary reality.

Stephen Mason, as the boy, was consistently right in the part - he drank his first glass of porter with the detached concentration of someone at prayer. But the palm must go to Peter Ackroyd

Cyril Cusack as Quigley, he is a true image of the power, and there is a quality in his acting which suggests the incipient wildness, the disconcertedness of the Irish character. Mr Trevor's script managed implicitly to convey the constrictions of Irish life, and it is from these that his comedy as well as his lyricism springs.

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Woody Herman Ronnie Scott's John Stevens 100 Club

At first sight, the Young Thundering Herd looked like just another example of a cadre cheaply assembled by an aging bandleader from the ranks of this year's US music school graduates: all chops and no charm. An hour later, one's mind had been changed.

Jazz Rain or Come Shine

Rain or Come Shine" which was alone worth the price of admission, and the cleverly interlocked figures of Bill Holman's "Midnight Run" gave the five trumpeters an opportunity to show off their solo skills.

Hallé/Loughran Festival Hall

When Adrian Boult conducted the City of Birmingham Orchestra in the 1920s, and the London orchestras were in a deputy-ridden mess, he used to say modestly that if he wanted to hear a good concert, he took the train to Manchester. The Hallé was then the best-established orchestra in the land, and the finest.

Los Romeros Wigmore Hall

It is, regrettably, increasingly rare to hear guitars play without electrification or amplification, or to hear a consort of guitars like the California-based Los Romeros, father and three sons, who returned to London on Monday night for the first time in 12 years.

Concerts

The suite Rafagas by Moreno Torroba, who died last year, and who wrote it for the Romeros, comprised three movements, in a folk-based style of contrasted rhythms and restricted harmonies, which were effectively shared between the players in terms of ensemble writing.

Theatre

Mivvy: Graham Walters (left), Linda Coggia, Ben Keaton. Never a lover of mime, I found the double-bill opening the Shaw's mime week unexpectedly appealing. The Trestle Theatre Company and the Mivvy Company acts are short (half an hour each) but remind you that mime can be as witty and adult as ballet.

Week of Mime

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Rock Eurythmics Hammersmith Palais

The harmony and proportion which the dictionary defines as eurythmics do not do justice to the enormous success enjoyed by the group of the same name. This year Eurythmics' ascendance has only been matched by that of Culture Club. The group are fronted by the Multi-instrumental talents of Dave Stewart and Annie Lennox, a singer of huge range and emotional power.

Richard Williams

danger which characterizes their best nights. There was no cause for dissatisfaction when Lennox and her backing girls, the Three Croquettes, locked tight on the more aggressive moments of "The Walk", a swaggering, soulful equation of taste and simplicity, enhanced by Dick Cuthell's crisp mute trumpet.

London debuts Taste before style

It had not occurred to me that London noticeably lacked a medium-sized amateur chorus, but Singers of London, 48 strong, have apparently found such a gap and decided to fill it. As often with English choirs, there were stronger middle voices than at either top or bottom, with a resulting dwindling of tonal weight in Handel's Dixit Dominus and Haydn's Salve Regina.

Nicholas Kenyon

delight. The performance verged on the prim and proper. Beethoven's C minor Trio, Op 1 No 3, benefited from a sociably-balanced, tidy-minded approach, as did his D major Quartet, Op 18 No 3, in the same hall from the English String Quartet, which has grown by the addition of a second violin to the trio led by Diana Cummings.

Noël Goodwin

managed to be both serious minded and diverting in the course of its four movements. Deftly varied technique and stylistic panache characterized Efrim Zimbalist's effective arrangement of a Fantasy on Rimsky-Korsakov's The Golden Cockerel, the initial cock-crow and the Astrologer's theme in harmonics leading to obligatory virtuosity. Neither this nor a Sonata by Saint-Saëns went very deep, but they were played with a charm of presentation which Gillian Findlay might have sought to advantage in her Purcell Room programme.

Law Report November 23 1983

should be able to exact from the assured a highest degree of protection that he acted reasonably for that purpose. There was nothing in the clause or statute which required the assured to show that a loss was "very probably" have occurred.

Court of Appeal

Minimising loss to insured property. Integrated Container Service Inc v British Traders Insurance Co Ltd. Lord Justice Eveleigh, Lord Justice Griffiths and Lord Justice Dillon. [Judgment delivered November 17]

Queen's Bench Division

Arbitrator not entitled to exceed brief. Phoenicia Express SARL v Garware Shipping Corporation Ltd. An arbitrator appointed under an arbitration clause in a charterparty between the shipowners, Garware Shipping Corp Ltd, and the charterers, Phoenicia Express SARL, who made a finding that the charterers had changed their name and were now trading as Phoenicia Lines SARL had made finding of fact which affected his jurisdiction and accordingly, the form of his award exceeded or might exceed his jurisdiction.

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Factual basis of director's responsibility

Department of Health and Social Security v Evans and Others. Under section 152(4) of the Social Security Act 1975, the question whether any individual director of a company "could reasonably be expected to have known" of that company's failure to pay national insurance contributions was a question of fact which in each case would probably depend on the nature of that director's position and responsibility in regard to the management of the company and the relevant information known to that director.

Queen's Bench Division

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Today 2.00 P. 7.15 Press Night Thurs 1 Dec. PREMIERE of the musical drama. EASY SEAT. By Marvin Hamlisch. Christopher Adler and Julian Barry. STANDBY From 10am. Any Unsold seats £8.00 (eve) £5.00 (mat). NATIONAL THEATRE (OLIVIER). Box Office: 01-928 2252. Credit Cards: 01-928 5933.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Perfect match that failed to reach the altar

With so many outside suitors chasing so many attractive Stock Exchange damsels, there are bound to be a few disappointments. Nonetheless, yesterday's terse announcement that talks between Exco International and Wood Mackenzie had been abruptly called off is something of a surprise. The two seemed a perfect business match.



John Gunn: distaste for 'fancy prices'

Exco, although known as a money broker, has already assembled most of the other pieces needed to construct an interlocking financial services jigsaw. First came the Far East dealing business of the old W.I. Carr stockbroking firm. Then Exco bought a 50.1 per cent stake in Gartmore Management, a highly respected investment house controlling £1.5 billion of funds. What it needed was a stockbroking firm with a strong business for City institutions and top-rate research backup.

Wood Mackenzie, the broker which made its name in North Sea oil and stormed London from Edinburgh, fits that bill perfectly. But a good idea does not make a deal.

The talks had been going on for three months before the two decided it was not going to work. From the buying side, Mr John Gunn, chief executive of Exco International, has already made plain his distaste for the "fancy" prices he had been quoted by other brokers he sounded out before playing his suit with Wood Mackenzie.

Mr John Chiene of Wood Mackenzie had his own problems. Unlike the stockjobbing firm Arkroyd & Smithers, a quoted company, or Vickers da Costa, long a limited partnership with non-Stock Exchange interests, Wood Mackenzie is a more conventional 37-man partnership. Any scheme would have to be tax-efficient and allow for the partners' continuing interests.

These things may well prove a stumbling block for other brokers. As it is, neither side seems put off by the unhappy experience and each will probably pursue alternative deals.

Wood Mackenzie, which ranks seventh overall among stock brokers and has a reputation at least to match, can afford to ponder its ambitions. Exco can look at other brokers with comparable reputations and a strong base of institutional share and gilt-edged business such as Scrimgeour Kemp-Gee and James Capel or,

given its already strong connexions, opt to help build up a more humble member of the Stock Exchange fraternity. Meanwhile, the Stock Exchange still has to find out what a straightforward top-class broker may now be worth. Outsiders paid 12 times earnings for Arkroyd, more than 15 (on a three year average) for Vickers da Costa. But there is still plenty of haggling to come.

Old habits die hard at Abbey As expected, there was no dreamlike beginning yesterday for Abbey National's life as a free agent outside the building society cartel.

Having banked some useful publicity from speculation that the society would go it alone with a preemptive cut in the mortgage rate, the Abbey board prudently decided to leave well alone until at least the next meeting in two weeks.

The latest money supply figures had effectively dashed hopes of an early cut from the present 11.25 per cent, but the continuing unrequited demand for new mortgages - described by the Abbey as stronger than usual at this time of the year - provided another contributory factor.

The episode demonstrates clearly enough that breaking loose from the cartel in practice is going to be much harder than many would have us believe.

Locking up the debts chain

The latest package of new money and rescheduling to keep Brazil as a financially going concern finally seems likely to materialize this week. Quite apart from the facts of the matter, the problem was always going to be that each part of the package depended on another, so that a mammoth amount of talk and coordination has been needed to produce both the chicken and the egg simultaneously.

The most crucial element was agreement by the International Monetary Fund and Brazil on an economic package which would satisfy enough people for the IMF to resume loan payments.

Since M. Jacques de Lorosiére, head of the IMF's managing director, had made approval more or less a resigning issue, despite Brazil's backsliding on wages, yesterday's crucial IMF meeting in Washington seemed a foregone conclusion.

In Europe, Mr Fritz Leutwiler, of the Bank for International Settlements, joined with a thumbs-up for the total \$11 billion package, which includes \$6.5 billion from commercial banks. The \$2.5 billion of government-backed export credits is assured despite Britain's non-participation.

And the rescheduling talks through the Paris Club have started well enough, though there is still some bargaining over terms to come.

It could all still fall apart. Although more than 300 bankers have committed all but \$500m of their \$6.5 billion new money, half of that is formally conditional on the remaining smaller banks.

Organizers like Morgan Guaranty and Lloyds have still to mount a massive exercise in persuasion over the next three weeks, to meet the December deadline.

Now Brazil must pay the price. Its national income will fall 6 to 7 per cent this year, trade has been balanced almost solely by cutting imports yet inflation is still 200 per cent rather than the promised 150 per cent and more action will be needed.

Tebbit says SE Council will have five non-members

By Philip Robinson

The Government moved yesterday to exempt the Stock Exchange from action under the Restrictive Practices Act and to end a four-year battle over its rule book.

Presenting the exemption Bill Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said that five non-members would be sitting on the Stock Exchange ruling council before the end of next month and that within two days the Exchange will unveil details allowing non-members to become directors of firms in which they have a stake.

The Government move effectively allows the Exchange to reform itself under the guidance of the Bank of England rather than have changes forced on it by the Restrictive Practices Court. Government intervened during the summer after four successive trade secretaries had refused to grant any exemption to the Stock Exchange.

Mr Peter Shore, Opposition spokesman on trade and industry called the intervention a scandal.



Norman Tebbit: no sell-out capacity could not long survive this change.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, whose initiative it was to allow the Exchange to reform itself, said in the House during the debate.

Mr Tebbit said the reforms were not to shield the exchange from the need for reform but to allow change under supervision and to meet the needs of the users.

Since the summer a number of American banks and British institutions have been in talks to take stakes in London stockbroking firms. Mr Tebbit said: "There were some who feared that change would be too slow - now our critics say these are too swift."

Burton goes into fast food field

By Jonathan Clark

The Burton Group is to branch into the fast food business by opening an experimental restaurant, above a combined Top Man and Top Shop store due to open soon in Liverpool.

Burton bought the 60,000 sq ft store on a prime site, from F W Woolworth which is rationalizing its property portfolio under its new management.

Mr Paul Plant, Burton's retail director, said yesterday he believed the 15 to 25 age group which shopped at Top Man and Top Shop also used restaurants like McDonalds.

Full year profits from the company which includes Burton, Jackson, Top Man, Dorothy Perkins, Top Shop, Evans and Peter Robinson, show the expected jump in profits from £24.3m to £39.1m.

The increase is reflected in a big increase in incentive payments under a bonus scheme which increased from £2.5m to £4.8m paid to 8,700 executives and employees - 87 per cent of the workforce.

The directors will share in the bonus, which is less than 10 per cent of the total wage roll, but denied speculation that Mr Ralph Halpern, Burton's chairman, would receive £250,000. Mr Mike Wood, the finance director, said Mr Halpern's share "will be relatively modest."

Mr Wood also said the company was not worried by its failure to buy Richard Shops and John Collier to help it expand. He said that Richard Shops have a total floor space of 500,000 sq ft and it has already added a further 140,000 sq ft in this financial year.

It claims it will be the most aggressive buyer of shop property in the country this year. Last year the group increased its overall market share by about 0.5 per cent to 4.5 per cent. It holds about 3 per cent of the womenswear market and 5 per cent of menswear.

Net margins have improved from 6 per cent in 1980 to 12.6 per cent last year. Cash in the bank has risen from £11m to £18m and Burton can draw on substantial overdraft facilities if it needs to make a big acquisition.



Ralph Halpern: bonus 'will be relatively modest'

Gibbs bank reborn under new name

By Michael Prest

A new merchant banking force will be launched in London next month when Antony Gibbs, the small house owned by the Hongkong Bank Group, starts afresh with £22m of new capital, a new name, and new offices.

From December 12 the present holding company, Antony Gibbs Holdings, will be called Wardley London Holdings, while the subsidiary Antony Gibbs & Sons will become Wardley London Ltd. Wardley is the name of the Hongkong group's main merchant bank. Most of the Antony Gibbs subsidiaries will undergo a similar name change.

The capital injection will bring shareholders' funds to £40m, which the chairman, Mr Tom Welsh, believes will be sufficient to support, for some years, a concerted move to increase the volume of conventional merchant banking business.

On the day that the changes of name became effective the bank will start trading from 71,000 square feet of the new Cutlers Gardens complex at 7, Devonshire Square in the City.

Mr Welsh regards the move from the present cramped premises off Old Jewry, also in the City, as an integral part of the bank's revitalization. Antony Gibbs's senior executives, including the acting chief executive, Mr Rowan Lauder, from Wardley Hongkong, frankly admit that the reputation of the house needs improvement.

But the potential of a merchant bank in London, very much at the heart of the changes sweeping through the financial world, could not be exploited until the parent digested Marine Midland Bank, seen its bid for the Royal Bank of Scotland blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and sorted out its own problems in Hongkong.

The new Wardley London, however, is designed to take advantage of the changes its executives see emerging over the next few years. While the core of the operation will be the corporate finance which is the traditional role of merchant banks, Wardley will offer the full range of services in money transactions, capital markets, and export finance.

Mr Ric Smith, the merchant bank's managing director, sees corporate finance as being the catalyst for the other activities. Antony Gibbs regards its connexions through the other parts of the Hongkong Bank Group with the Far and Middle East and Africa as a valuable source of business. It hopes to be able to attract customers such as central banks.

Europe's leading companies have joined forces to protest against the imposition of unitary taxation measures in the US which can lead to double taxation of profits earned by their subsidiaries operating in 12 states.

Crisis, the new organization formed to lobby against unitary taxation, is backed by a powerful grouping of companies which includes Barclays Bank International, BP, Plessey, Fiat, Olivetti, Renault, Michelin and Daimler-Benz.

In a statement to the US Treasury Department which is holding hearings on the tax, Crisis - the Committee to Restore an Internationally Stable Investment System - urged the US Government to weigh the views of foreign-owned corporations equally with those of US companies doing business overseas.

Mr Robert Smith, spokesman for Crisis, said in Washington yesterday: "Many foreign companies started doing business in the US with the impression that the Federal Government, not the individual states, was the final authority with regard to corporate taxation. Foreign investors expect the US to speak with one voice on tax matters."

Controversy has surrounded the unitary taxation issue since the US Supreme Court upheld the state of California's right to use the method last June.

Fed blamed as growth slows in US

From Bailey Morris Washington

The American economy slowed during the third quarter, according to revised figures released yesterday by the Reagan Administration, fueling fears of some high-level officials that the central bank's monetary policy is too tight.

A Commerce Department spokesman said real gross national product grew at a revised rate of 7.7 per cent in the third quarter, down from an earlier "flash estimate" of 7.9 per cent.

The revised third quarter figures compared with growth in the April-June quarter of 9.7 per cent. Corporate profits, while still strong, also slowed in the third quarter with a gain of 11.6 per cent, down from after-tax profit growth of 17.6 per cent in the second quarter of the year.

The latest figures drew a sharp response from White House and Congressional officials who have complained in recent weeks that the policies of the US Federal Reserve Board, America's central bank, are endangering a sustained recovery.

High-level officials, including Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary and Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, have publicly warned Mr Paul Volcker, the central bank chairman, not to allow money supply growth to slow significantly.

But Mr Volcker made clear yesterday his belief that the Federal Reserve Board is following the right course in continuing to hold down inflation while allowing a moderate recovery.

His remarks underscored the growing policy debate in Washington over whether the huge US deficit or the central bank's restrictive policies are the cause of continuing high US interest rates.

Mr Jack Kemp, a conservative Congressman from New York, recently joined 49 of his colleagues in signing a letter to Mr Volcker warning that the recovery could fizzle out before the presidential elections if monetary policy were not eased.

"Monetary policy is deliberately being kept unnecessarily tight and the economic expansion held hostage to at tax increase," the congressmen claimed in their letter.

P&O shares for Sterling

It looks as though Mr Jeffrey Sterling, the newly appointed chairman of Peninsula & Oriental, has taken advantage of this week's weakness in the share price.

Word in the market yesterday suggested he had bought a further 1million to 1.5million shares in P&O through his own brokers and now owns about 4 per cent in the company. This latest buying spree was greeted with a firm "no comment".

But the stake, worth £3.72m, may prove crucial if Trafalgar House decides to pursue its original £250m bid once the Monopolies Commission gives the go-ahead.

The rest of the equity market enjoyed a prosperous day, although turnover remained at a low ebb. The FT Index closed at its high for the day 5.3 up at 724.0, helped by the overnight surge on Wall Street.

In the gilt market the issue of a new £500m of "tap" stock has made little impact.

Market report, page 18

STOCK EXCHANGES

Table with columns for FT Index, FT Gilts, FT All Shares, Dax, Nikkei, Hang Seng, Amsterdams, Sydney, Frankfurt, Brussels, Paris, etc.

CURRENCIES

Table with columns for LONDON CLOSE, NEW YORK LATEST, INTERNATIONAL, etc.

INTEREST RATES

Table with columns for Domestic interest rates, Euro-currency rates, US rates, etc.

GOLD

Table with columns for London fixed (per ounce), etc.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shell and Esso are believed to be looking again at the possibility of developing two North Sea oil fields, Tern and Eider, shelved last year because of falling prices and high taxation.

The recent firming of prices coupled with the Budget oil tax concession have put the two projects - with the combined reserves of 250 million barrels - back in the potentially commercial bracket.

Metal Box, Britain's leading packaging company, reported interim pretax profits of £34.5m yesterday against £15.9m at the comparable stage last year. The group will benefit from a £40m windfall in the second half of the year when the proceeds from the reorganization of its South African subsidiaries are remitted to Britain.

Amersham International has announced a 21 per cent increase in interim pretax profits to £6.4m for the half-year to end September. Turnover rose to £41.3m from £33.7m a year ago and the interim dividend is being raised 15.2 per cent to 1.9p net. The shares fell 2p to 228p, yielding 2.6 per cent.

CE Heath, the insurance broker and underwriter, yesterday reported half-time net profits to September up 17 per cent at £3.35m. Brokerage income increased 15 per cent to £14.2m, but with investment income in that sector down 21 per cent, profits fell 6 per cent. Underwriting profits soared 56 per cent to £3.86m.

Mr Robert Holmes à Court's Bell Group is raising A\$22m in Australia for extra working capital by placing 4 million shares at A\$5.50. Mr Holmes à Court, who owns Associated Communications Corporation through Bell Group and has built up a big stake in Fleet Holdings, will take up 1 million of the shares.

A T & T new shares lead Dow advance

New York (AP Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks maintained the advances chalked up in early trading yesterday, in a continuation of Monday's rally.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was up about 6.5 points to 1,275. The Transportation average was up about 1.5 points and the Utility index up nearly 1 point.

Trading was again heavy in the shares of the "new" AT & T and the seven units it is spinning off on January 1. Professional traders and arbitrageurs dominated the action.

AT & T "whats issued" was the most active NYSE issue, up 1/4 to 13 1/4.

Polaroid was second, up 1/2 to 20 1/2.

WALL STREET

Table with columns for AT & T, American Telephone, International Business Machines, etc.

Chambers of Commerce join call for change

Fight to redraw the map for regional aid

The Association of British Chambers of Commerce is the latest organization to join the discussion on regional policy and to suggest ways in which the Government can more effectively channel state aid into the sectors of the economy that are most in need and likely to derive the greatest benefit.

The 86 chambers in the association comprise mostly small and medium sized businesses whose owners and managers are in an ideal position to observe the impact of regional aid.

The association's case, Fair Deal for the Regions, is published today just a few weeks before the Government makes public its proposals for a radical rethink of regional policy. That new policy will be enshrined in a White Paper which, by all accounts, will have green margins to allow for a further vital period of consultation.

It seems clear that any policy that properly and fairly assists the more disadvantaged areas will need to take into account and be affected by other elements of national industrial policy. In particular, the regions - and their unemployment rates - would be affected considerably by more capital spending on infrastructure projects.

The association's list of beneficial measures include "greater incentives to geographical and occupational mobility, a curb on non-domestic rate increases, more vigorous action against unfair foreign competition and unreasonable barriers to British exports, and most important, more investment in transport systems."

One of the examples quoted is the expansion of Manchester Airport which says the association, if accompanied by a first-class permanent link to British Rail's main lines to the North and South, would benefit the North of England generally. Infrastructure investment should be geared to regional need, the association says. Such spending in those regions with relatively high unemployment and in the older industrial areas is a significantly more effective way of stimulating economic activity and meeting social need.

But, it says, the investment must come through capital grants and should not be "frittered away" in subsidies to current spending.

The £700m a year saved from the regional development grant scheme, which the association wants abolished, should not be the source of these funds, however. "Once the saving was made there would be no guarantee that either the Treasury or local authorities (which are now underspending on capital grants) would make it available or spend what it was allocated".

Two exceptions are identified: fulfilling demand for derelict land grants in the older industrial areas, and expanded urban development grants to eradicate inner city blackspots.

The association wants the former regional development grant money to go into the coffers of the Industrial Development Act and, specifically, to extend the provisions of Section 7 to cover the entire country. "This would be a more selective grant regime, and favouring investment in those industries throughout the country with a reasonable chance of a viable future."

The association calls for a period of consultation after the publication of the White Paper and before the country is presented irrevocably with a redrawn industrial map.

J Hepworth & Son plc A RECORD YEAR

Table with columns for GROUP RESULTS, Years to 31st August (amount in thousands), 1983, 1982, etc.

- Profit before tax increased by 121% - a Group record.
A year of considerable change has seen the phenomenal growth of Next, the Group's womenswear chain, and a substantial refurbishment of Hepworths menswear shops.
Dividend is increased by 37 1/4%.
Revaluation of property portfolio showed a surplus of £8m.
Borrowings have been paid off.
Club 24 continues to flourish and has improved its contribution to profits.
Assets per share have now risen to 282p.
There is every reason to be encouraged by the prospects ahead.

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Trust buys into broker

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Nov 14. Dealings end, Nov 25. Contango Day, Nov 28. Settlement Day, Dec 5.

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Includes items like Acom Computer, Acom Holdings, Acom Computers, etc.

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Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Includes items like Acom Computers, Acom Holdings, Acom Computers, etc.

The small Edinburgh broker Wishart Brodie has become the latest Stock Exchange firm to succumb to the lure of outside influence in the run up to the dramatic switch to dual capacity and minimum commission.

Yesterday the Yorkshire & Lancashire Investment Trust took a 10 per cent stake in the firm, adding 1p to the shares at 47 1/2p. Mr Stuart Allison, a partner at Wishart Brodie, admitted Y & L had bought a stake, but refused to say how much the terms were worth.

However, Mr Allison admitted that they had been agreed by both parties, but were still subject to approval by the Stock Exchange Council.

The deal follows similar arrangements with Securities Pacific, which has taken a 29.9 per cent stake in broker Hoare Govett. Citibank which is taking a stake in Vickers da Costa, RIT which owns 29.9 per cent and Mercury Securities which is buying 29.9 per cent in London's biggest quoted jobbers Akroyd & Smithers.

The rest of the equity market spent a quiet day still uncertain at the longer end of the market. Dealers hope that the new short "tap" announced on Monday will be oversubscribed, but this appears doubtful in some quarters.

Among the leaders Glaxo added 13p to 750p on yesterday's reports in The Times of a meeting at Broker Buckmaster & Moore and a possible bullish brokers circular within the next fortnight.

The United Kingdom's biggest cement producer Blue Circle also rose 10p to 428p on hopes of an imminent price rise. Blue Circle's big US competitor Lone Star has been over in London and is looking for an increase in raw materials of 15 per cent. Hopes of a fall in unemployment has given a boost to the employment agencies. Yesterday it was the turn of Brook St Bureau 8p higher at 43p.

Over on the Unlisted Securities Market Securguard added 1p to 126p after announcing its £1.2m acquisition of a private security company with offices stretching from Birmingham to Glasgow. Mr Alan Baldwin, chairman, is pleased with the year's high of 38p on hopes of a bumper set of figures this year. At the interim stage the group reported pretax profits up from £272,000 to £609,000 with the market looking for more than £1m for the year. The group, already sitting on about £300,000 in cash, is looked upon by some dealers as a possible takeover candidate since Ferguson Industrial Holdings sold its 22.7 per cent stake in August.

Francis says it has received no approach from Suter which ended the day 1p dearer at 76p. In stores jobbers were caught short in Woolworth 23p higher at 305p. Dealers are now looking for a bumper Christmas which could see pretax profits as high as £20.5m (excluding property profits) against £4.3m last time.

John Brown held steady at 13p after wild fluctuations earlier in the week. Francis Industries added a further 2p to 67p reflecting Mr David Abell's Suter Electrical increasing its stake to 23.39 per cent of the total. This has led to the inevitable suggestion that Suter may eventually make a full bid.

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WALL STREET PRICES & COMMENT THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

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Atlantic City in £14m t. By January 1st. Includes text about Atlantic City and financial details.

Product. Includes text about a product and its benefits.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

Productivity pays off at Metal Box

Efficiency is the order of the day at Metal Box, Britain's leading packaging group.

The group has coped well with a combination of technological change and world recession which threatened its existence as the dominant supplier of cans and packaging to the British food and drink industries.

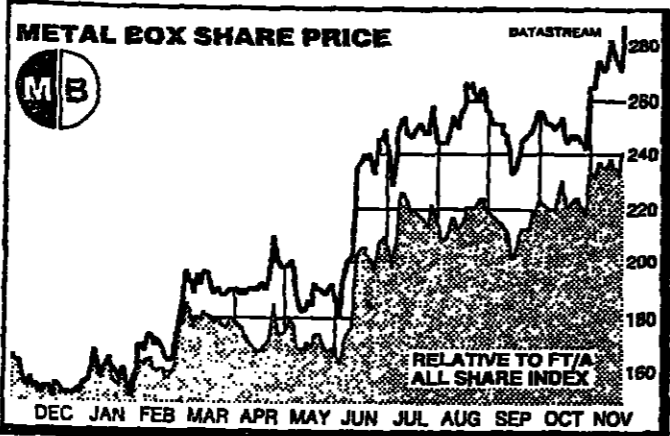
The result is that the group is making as many cans as it did in 1979 with half the employees.

Efforts to contain costs include asking shareholders to vote next year on the appointment of a new firm of auditors to take £1m a year of business now handled by six firms.

The PET (plastic bottle) market is growing at the rate of 15 per cent a year as brewers and soft drinks suppliers take advantage of this cheaper means of packaging.

Elsewhere, Metal Box clings to its 40 per cent share of the static central heating market, through Stielrad.

The unanswered question for the second half of the year is how much of a £40m windfall



resulting from the restructuring of the group's interests in South Africa will show through in the profit and loss account.

Still, the market was happy with the figures, chalking up the shares by 8p to 288p against a 1-40p low for the year.

Amersham

A 21.4 per cent increase in profits and forecasts that the growth rate will continue has not helped to support the Amersham share price.

Amersham considers that the next product range will still be within radioactive diagnostics. It has a deal with an American university for a chemical which increases the range of uses of a scanner.

Nevertheless there is no danger in the next couple of years, at least according to the company, which is confident of sustaining the growth.

C E Heath

Nobody could have been more cautious about its industry's prospects than the insurance firm, C E Heath, when it raised its interim dividend up from 5p to 5.25p net after seeing six months' net profits rise 17 per cent.

But to talk of broking being the problem sector, while underwriting profits have soared by 36 per cent, is to ignore the huge difficulty facing the insurance industry as a whole: massive rate-cutting, which has been particularly savage in the US.

Many companies there have been operating on the old-style Japanese principle of accumulating turnover, not profits - but, in their case, not for growth to survive.

Heath's spectacular rise in its Australian business, as predicted, only serves to underline the problems in North America, which still represents the biggest single slice of its turnover and profits.

The shake-out amongst competitors is already happening in the ranks of the so-called "captive" insurance companies, set up by industrial concerns, again largely American, to serve their in-house needs, of which more than 1,000 are registered in Bermuda - and among companies in the Third World.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Adam Leisure Year to 31.8.83 Pretax profit £3m (£1m) Stated earnings 7.3p (2.9p) Turnover £20.7m (£13.6m) Net final dividend 1p

Zygal Dynamics Year to 30.2.83 Pretax profit £161,000 (£34,000) Stated earnings 3.7p (0.9p) Turnover £2.2m (£1.4m)

A & M Hire Half-year to 31.7.83 Pretax profit £260,000 (£255,000) Stated earnings 0.38p (0.49p) Turnover £542,000 (£528,000) Net dividend 0.1p

Sekers International Half-year to 30.9.83 Pretax profit £171,000 (£54,000) Stated earnings 1.84m (£5.5m) Net interim dividend 0.25p (nil)

Amos Hinton & Sons Half-year to 17.9.83 Pretax profit £1.1m (£558,000) Stated earnings 16.07p (15.33p) Turnover £85.2m (£58.1m) Net interim dividend 2.4p (same)

Parland Textile (Holdings) Half-year to 2.9.83 Pretax profit £207,000 Stated earnings 10.5p (2.4p) Turnover £20.4m (£18.6m) Net interim dividend 1.5p (same)

Rexmore Half-year to 1.10.83 Pretax profit £285,000 (£190,000) Stated earnings 2.11p (0.75p) Turnover £20.4m (£18.6m) Net interim dividend 0.8p (0.525p)

Pactrol Electronics Half-year to 30.9.83 Pretax profit £229,000 (£144,000) Stated earnings 8.06p (5.25p) Turnover £1.1m (£76,000) Net interim dividend 2p (1.5p) Share price 438p Yield 1.8 Dividend payable 12.12.83

The Haywood Williams Group is raising £2m by a one-for-four rights issue. The 2,104,712 new shares at 100p will be in line for the proposed final dividend of 3p this year.

Economic Commentary by Tim Congdon

The VAT 'mistake' that might help revive the economy

Mr Nigel Lawson has suffered from several media nasties in the last week, with The Sun's "Lawson in Blunderland" being perhaps the least wholesome.

But so far he has been responsible only for some measures to control public spending, announced in July, and last week's statement. The most encouraging sign would be if the newspapers gave Mr Lawson an even heavier battering after his first Budget, due in March or April.

There would be a much more serious intention, of course. It would be to strengthen incentives where it really counts (the low-paid, the unemployed) and to improve the efficiency of both the labour and capital markets.

The essential step is to repeat the so-called "mistake" in Sir Geoffrey Howe's first Budget, announcing a substantial rise in the rate of value-added tax, on this occasion from 15 per cent to 20 per cent.

The revenue from higher VAT would become available for more worthy causes. It would probably not be a good idea to put the rate up

Table: The Arithmetic of the Tax Package (figures in £m 1984-85 prices). Columns: Addition to revenue from raising VAT, Loss of revenue from abolishing NIS, Official estimate of yield from stamp duties in 1983-84, Probable yield from stamp duties in 1984-85.

The package: Full-year yield from raising VAT to 20 per cent +£3,700, Full-year cost of ending NIS -£1,275, Full-year cost of increasing single and wife's earned income allowances by £350 -£1,330, Full-year effect on the PSBR -5

Sources: HM Treasury Autumn Statement, 1983, Financial Statement and Budget Report 1983-84, and own estimates.

The limit, now £32.50 a week, is due to rise to £34.00 next April. Few workers earn as little as this, but the need to pay contributions is an obvious deterrent to employers when considering recruitment and discouragement to the unemployed when seeking work.

The groups most affected are school-leavers and young workers who usually enter employment at minimum wage rates. There unemployment rate is particularly high and the raising of the lower earnings limit would make a worthwhile difference to their problem.

The drawback to tinkering with the lower earnings limit is that it would muddy the distinction between the tax and national insurance systems.

If the limit was increased, it would become more difficult for the very low-paid, including the young, to build up a contributions record. Without a contributions record, entitlement to benefit cannot be established.

The answer may be a special Treasury supplement to exempt young workers from national insurance contributions while they are gaining on-the-job experience.

The Government may be suspicious of this idea since it would disturb the insurance principle on which social security is based. But if we have had a national insurance surcharge, what is so objectionable about a national insurance supplement?

Ending the national insurance surcharge takes up £1,275m. of the £3,700m. available. Nearly half of the remaining £2,425m. should be used for the abolition of stamp duty.

The case for ending stamp duty has become urgent in the last few months. The shares of British registered companies are being actively traded on foreign stock exchanges in forms which avoid stamp duty. No revenue is raised and the London capital markets are bypassed. If the Government wants the stock exchange to be internationally competitive when the new rule book comes into force, stamp duty must go.

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Atlantic Computers in £14m takeover

Atlantic Computers, the fast growing computer systems design group, is spending £14m on a manufacturing company that will take it into the field of data communications.

The acquisition comes less than two months after Atlantic was floated on the stock market with a price tag of about £55m.

Now it is paying a mixture of shares, cash and loan stock for Lion Systems Developments, a privately-owned Buckinghamshire company which designs and makes specialist data communications systems.

Atlantic shares, which were offered for sale at 23p in early October, rose a further 27p on the stock market yesterday to 410p.

Atlantic said it expected significant benefits for both companies as a result of the merger. The chairman, Mr John Foulston, said: "No other company could open the door to data communications in the same way that Lion does."

Atlantic sees Lion's data communications and telecommunications management systems as complementary to its own activity in supplying computer systems.

Lion has said that it will make pretax profits of not less than £1.65m in the 10 months to the end of this year. Sales in that period will be about £5.2m. Atlantic has forecast profits of not less than £5.1m for 1983.

Spanish drive for UK tourists

From Harry Debelius Madrid The Spanish government is to spend £1m to encourage more British holidaymakers to look for "everything under the sun" in Spain, a spokesman for the tourist department said in Madrid yesterday.

The total budget for official tourist promotion abroad, 1.9 billion pesetas (8.5m) is 38 per cent higher than the amount spent the previous year.

Newlands, Knight & Round will handle the advertising and promotion in Britain during the first part of the two-part campaign. For that first phase, which begins immediately, Spain has allocated 120m. No agency has yet been named for the second phase, budgeted at 108m pesetas.

An additional 300m pesetas will be spent on international advertising, including some British publications, the tourist official said. Tandem/DDS of Madrid was awarded that contract. The slogan for the advertisements is: "Everything under the sun", emphasizing the variety of activities available in Spain.

The campaign has been structured on the results of a survey by the tourist department, which indicated the holiday activities of the various categories of holidaymakers.

Officials said that the campaign is aimed at the higher end of the market.

Food canning prices to increase by 6%

Cans for foods, including petfoods, are to rise in price by an average 6 per cent in January adding £20m to food canners' costs. Cans for soft drinks and beer are also expected to go up.

Profit margins in food canning are still tight, so the extra costs will be passed on in full, said the Food Manufacturers Federation which described the price increases from Metal Box and American Can, the dominant suppliers, as "disappointing".

On the case of 24 1/2 oz cans the price increase will add another 10p across a broad range of fruit and vegetable products, according to the federation. In the shop it might mean another 1/2p on medium sized cans of beans.

The increases have been notified by the can makers after a 6.4 per cent increase in tinplate prices by British Steel.

Both steel and aluminium cans are affected because is now split fairly evenly between steel and aluminium cans.

Food manufacturers are not happy at the price increases because they argue that tinplate increases need not be fully mirrored in finished can prices. Tinplate costs account for 60 per cent of the total cost of producing a can, the federation says.

Canners have seen a 4.9 per cent decline in canned food sales last year. But perfumers, which represent about a third of the total canned goods market, were up 3.3 per cent. Net profit margins in food and drink have improved to 3.5 per cent overall, but margins in the canned food sector are lower, according to the federation.

Midland Bank promotion

Midland Bank: Mr Robert Wyatt, assistant general manager and an executive director of Midland Bank Group International Trade Services (MBGITS), becomes general manager of the bank on January 1.

He will succeed Mr George Barrett who is retiring. Mr Barrett will continue as chairman of MBGITS.

Securities Trust of Scotland: Mr Ronald Miller has been elected a director.

Schroder Assely: Mr Colin Craig will become managing director in early January.

Canary/Octopus: Miss Alison Cathie, at present publishing director of Orbis Publishing, will be managing director/publisher from January 31.

Airways Pension Scheme: Mr Anthony Lumsden & Co: Mr F Pearce is a new director. Group Investors: Mr P W Darwin is the new chairman.

Money Market Deposits for Companies and Private Investors. Average Rate Scheme offers: Competitive interest rate, Short notice repayment, Quarterly interest, Deposits £5,000 to £250,000.

Base Lending Rates. ABN Bank 9%, Barclays 9%, BCCI 9%, Citibank Savings 110%, Consolidated Crds 9%, Continental Trust 9%, C. Hoare & Co 9%, Lloyds Bank 9%, Midland Bank 9%, Nat Westminster 9%, TSB 9%, Williams & Glyn's 9%.

WALL STREET table with columns for various stocks and their prices. Includes AMT Inc, AMR, Allied Chem, Allied Signal, Amstar, etc.

COMMODITIES table with columns for LONDON COMMODITY PRICES, RUBBER, SUGAR, COFFEE, etc.

BREWMAKER plc Offer for Sale by HARVARD SECURITIES LIMITED. 4,222,000 Ordinary Shares of 1p each at 33.25p per share payable in full on application.

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL: FOREST FACE A SCOTTISH INVASION, WATFORD LOOK TO YOUTH AGAIN, SPURS CALL UP HAZARD

Injuries force Celtic to adopt cautious approach

By Clive White

Ten years ago it would have been unthinkable, indeed unthinkable a manager of Celtic talking of caution in a European Cup...



Face to face at the City Ground tonight: Aitken (left), of Celtic, and Wigley, of Nottingham Forest

unique treble of European Cup, Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup winners' medals. But they will be without the forthright Todd again because of a pulled hamstring and Fairclough, aged 19, will again stand in.

second legs - including five against Sporting Lisbon. Nottingham's return to Europe is a long way from the first leg...

Aberdeen spurn chances but draw

From Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent, Hamburg

Hamburg 0 Aberdeen 0

Aberdeen held the European Cup holders to a goalless draw in a game of frustrated chances and should start as firm favourites to win the return leg of the European Super Cup at Pittodrie Park next month.

Police check books of Italian clubs

Milan (AP) - Italian customs police, reportedly seeking clues of under-the-table payments, checked the books of three leading clubs last week and were preparing to launch an investigation into several other clubs in the near future police sources said.

Customs police, who have been dealing with Italy's most sensational tax evasions involving the Mafia oil industrialists and bankers, were reportedly looking into the possibility that money was being channelled through unofficial or illegal channels.

Officials of the three clubs confirmed their books were checked but did not elaborate. Juventus, however, have been paying princely salaries to their French forward Platini, to Polish forward Boniek and the World Cup defender Rossi since 1981.

Briggs to keep date with Leeds

Oxford United's Milk Cup third round replay against Leeds United today will be an important game for central defender Gary Briggs.

Although the prize for the winners is a home tie against Manchester United, Leeds are the team against whom he most wants to play.

Gray: Hopes revived

Eddie Gray, said: "We were fortunate to be let off the hook in the first match, but I believe we are good enough to win at the second attempt."

England striker Cyril Regis is expected to return to the squad for Saturday's first division game against their struggling neighbours Wolves at the Hawthorns.

Boyhood loyalty could take Olsen to United

Manchester United have emerged as favourites to sign the Danish international forward, Jesper Olsen.

if he leaves Ajax at the end of his contract. Although Olsen has been offered more money by Tottenham Hotspur and former Wolves striker Ron Atkinson, it is confident that the player's boyhood interest in the club will tip the scales.

Cash and carry-on

Geoff Greaves, a director of Birmingham City, has resigned from the board because he is not prepared to lead the club another £25,000.

Greaves, former commercial manager at Birmingham, has been re-organizing the commercial side of the club.

A plastic pitch for United

Manchester United are to install a synthetic grass pitch at their indoor training complex. They have chosen an end-to-end Spartans surface.

The United chairman, Martin Edwards said: "The surface seems to be as good as any possible to get to natural grass. The reason for this is that it is a lot more durable and it makes sense to get experience playing on them."

Blissett a 'mistaken acquisition'

Milan, (AP) - Recent blunders by AC Milan's forward Lather Blissett showed that the Jamaican-born player was a "mistaken acquisition", the club president was quoted as saying yesterday.

In an interview with the Milan daily La Gazzetta dello Sport, Giuseppe Farina denied rumours that Milan was making moves to send Blissett back to Brazil for his mistakes in Sunday's 2-2 first division match against Fiorentina.

Youthful Repton prevail

By George Chesterman

Repton beat Bolton at Repton yesterday in a beautiful spectacle which would have done no discredit to Bolton were it not for their strike and Stopped, who proved to be the outstanding player of the day, was the first to have a shot at goal after five minutes. But Repton, a very young side, settled down.

Blomqvist turns the wheel of fortune

Hannu Mikkola, the world champion, was unable to make any significant impression on the leader, Stig Blomqvist, as the Lombard RAC Rally moved through North West England yesterday.

At one point Blomqvist edged 38, from Worcester, extended his advantage to three minutes after the Scot had suffered a front wheel puncture. Blomqvist said: "I don't know if I'll be able to hold off Jimmy in the forest stages, but things are going quite well."

Chinese moving towards a new Formula

Macao (Reuters) - China may hold Formula two and three motor races at a circuit near Peking within two or three years, according to Yuan Zijun, the vice-president of the China Sports Service Company (CSSC).

Yuan led a five-man delegation to this Portuguese-administered Chinese territory last week for the annual Formula Three Macao Grand Prix and met other organizers.

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By Rex Bellamy

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WILTSHIRE. Huntford 12 miles. Andover and Marlborough 10 miles. Waterford from Andover 1 hour. On the edge of a village, a superb detached house with 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 parking spaces, 2 cars, 2 garages, 2 cars, 2 garages.

KENSINGTON. An attractive late Victorian terraced house in fashionable tree lined area. Just a few minutes from the tube. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 parking spaces, 2 cars, 2 garages, 2 cars, 2 garages.

ELEGANT RESIDENCE BRONDESBURY PARK LONDON NW6. 4 reception, 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 reception rooms, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 parking spaces, 2 cars, 2 garages, 2 cars, 2 garages.

NORTH WEST WALES HILLS OF LLEYN PENINSULA. See 1/2 mls. Pwllheli 8 mls. Large farm house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 parking spaces, 2 cars, 2 garages, 2 cars, 2 garages.

CONSTANTINE BAY. Superb detached house built on cliff. Large integral stone, small garden. £38,000 with carpets. Tel: 0841 528788 or write Parker, Tremadoc, Gwynedd, N. Wales, Pwllheli.

NORTHAMPTON. Superior open view adjoining golf course. Large detached house, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 parking spaces, 2 cars, 2 garages, 2 cars, 2 garages.

WANTAGE OXON. Unfinished 13 year new building. 5/6 bedrooms, 3 reception, large garden, large driveway, large garage, large carport, large porch, large veranda, large balcony, large pergola, large gazebo, large fountain, large pond, large lake, large stream, large river, large sea, large ocean, large sky, large sun, large moon, large stars, large planets, large galaxies, large universe.

N.20. SUPERB VICTORIAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING. 2 SPACIOUS FLATS. Excellent condition. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 parking spaces, 2 cars, 2 garages, 2 cars, 2 garages.

SW1 SLOANE GARDENS. Attractive and spacious 1 bedroom and 2 bedrooms in a magnificent location. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1 balcony, 1 terrace, 1 parking space, 1 car, 1 garage, 1 car, 1 garage.

Nr ABERGAVENNY. Beautifully modernized detached cottage with fabulous views overlooking the Gwyddol Gorge. Living/dining, lounge, 2 bedrooms, and bathroom. £40,000 ooo. 0873 831659.

NOVE SYLVAN setting. Between Here park and Lake recreation ground and walking distance of the railway. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 parking spaces, 2 cars, 2 garages, 2 cars, 2 garages.

WINDSOR. Spacious detached house of great charm in excellent setting. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 parking spaces, 2 cars, 2 garages, 2 cars, 2 garages.

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W1. Large attractive "broad" house. Planning permission for 2 maisonettes and 1 bed flat. £300,000 per unit. 01-574 1528.

3RD FLOOR STUDIO. Excellent condition. Purpose built. Entrance hall, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 parking spaces, 2 cars, 2 garages, 2 cars, 2 garages.

WINDSOR. 2 bed ground floor flat in luxury development overlooking the walk, long view, gas CH, garage. £60,000 01-435 1006

WOKING. 4 beds, 2 baths, 3 reception, large lounge, large kitchen, large dining room, large living room, large bedroom, large bathroom, large terrace, large garden, large driveway, large garage, large carport, large porch, large veranda, large balcony, large pergola, large gazebo, large fountain, large pond, large lake, large stream, large river, large sea, large ocean, large sky, large sun, large moon, large stars, large planets, large galaxies, large universe.

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CHISWICK. Impressive Victorian mansions. The best in the area. 4 or 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 parking spaces, 2 cars, 2 garages, 2 cars, 2 garages.

HIGHBURY FIELDS N.5. A large well furnished 3 bedroom and 2 bathroom flat in a magnificent location. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 parking spaces, 2 cars, 2 garages, 2 cars, 2 garages.

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WATSONS (0279) 52361. Garden flat, 2 beds, full kitchen, very nice, division built area. £49,000 ooo.

BAKER ST/REGENTS PK. A quiet 1/2 bed, 1 rec bath, c.h., fitted kitchen, 24 hr porter. Entry price, £40,000.

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ASHFORD, KENT Spacious Detached House. 3 beds, 1 bath, 2 reception rooms, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 parking spaces, 2 cars, 2 garages, 2 cars, 2 garages.

NEAR ASHFORD KENT. Charming 1 1/2 fl. Farm House, beautifully restored. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 parking spaces, 2 cars, 2 garages, 2 cars, 2 garages.

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Action on Divers trying to stop pipe

divers trying to stop pipe

By Mark Rosselli

An injunction was granted yesterday against the Greenpeace conservation group, whose divers have been trying to block undersea discharge pipe exits from the nuclear processing plant at Sellafield, Cumbria, formerly Windscale.

But yesterday it appeared that the protesters might ignore the High Court injunction, and continue their efforts to stop radioactive waste from being pumped into the Irish Sea.

Divided by time, united by violence and grief

Kennedys honour the memory of JFK

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

In brilliant autumn sunshine members of the Kennedy family yesterday gathered in Washington and later at their home in Hyannis Port to honour the memory of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, on the twentieth anniversary of his assassination in Dallas.

At an early-morning private ceremony at Arlington cemetery, before the gates were opened to the public, Kennedy's brother, sisters, nephews and nieces, together with a few close friends, scattered yellow and white roses at his grave side.



Two Families, an ocean apart, paying tribute to their lost loved ones: two men who died by the gun.



Twenty years ago, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was shot dead as he drove through Dallas, Texas.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Lamont quangoes to Left and Right

Mr Norman Lamont, of the Department of Industry, yesterday made a statement to the House about government tourism policy.

One's suspicions were immediately aroused. Why does tourism need a government policy? One could understand why a hotel, a museum, or a guest house, needed a tourist policy. But what does tourism require of government - other than that government helps bring about that general prosperity which all enterprises, including tourism, might flourish?

Today's events

Royal engagements: Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attends a reception by the East Grinstead Research Trust at New Zealand House, 6.45.

New books - hardbacks

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week: Albert, Prince Consort, by Robert Phoenix James (Fleming Hamilton, £12.50).

Weather forecast

A ridge of high pressure extends from S Germany across Britain.

Best wines

In a blind tasting of 35 wines of Moulin-à-Vent, Louis Jadot 1981, £5.75 from Victoria Wine was found outstanding.

Roads

London and the South-East: Roadworks on the Alexandra Park approach road affecting Mowell Hill area.

Ports dispute

French ports might be affected today by a 24-hour dispute, the RAC said last night.

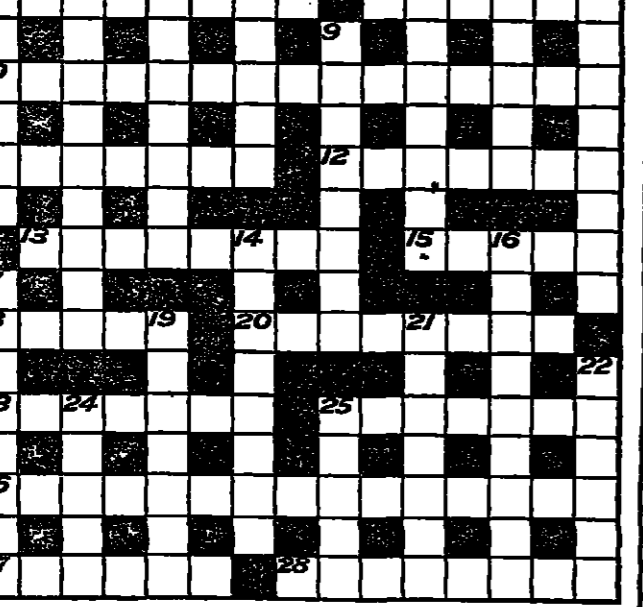
Anniversaries

Birth: Franklin Pierce, fourteenth President of the United States, 1804.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.66	1.58
Austria Sch	20.10	21.50
Belgium Fr	24.00	26.00
Canada \$	1.28	1.21
Denmark Kr	14.82	14.12
Finland MKK	2.08	2.40
France Fr	12.11	11.30
Germany DM	4.10	3.91
Greece Dr	160.00	152.00
Hongkong \$	11.75	11.10
Ireland Pt	1.52	1.27
Italy Lira	240.00	237.00
Japan Yen	360.00	342.00
Netherlands Gld	4.61	4.36
Norway Kr	11.46	10.85
Portugal Esc	200.00	190.00
South Africa Rd	1.76	1.63
Spain Pta	135.00	126.00
Sweden Kr	12.12	11.55
Switzerland Fr	2.33	2.16
USA \$	1.51	1.46
Yugoslavia Dnr	230.00	207.00

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,294



- 1 What's above this in the French flag? (3)
- 2 Frustrate national spirit (6)
- 3 Divulge what 19 may do (4,3,4)
- 4 One of Sheridan's characters heard making his appearance (7)
- 5 Island produces scholar in mental literature (7)
- 6 Olive a rose used originally for portrait (4)
- 7 Gold coin auditors might confuse with an obol (5)
- 8 One captures only half of street in attack (3)
- 9 Succeeded as part of film's completed (4,4)
- 10 Unusual to follow new code of proper conduct (7)
- 11 Leading man leaves city, in scene of old play (7)
- 12 Left in company of some musicians to make film (4,4,3,4)
- 13 Small island in southern county (6)
- 14 Two sorts of trap for gatherer of news (6)
- 15 Uncovers a novel description of Clementine's home (9)
- 16 She might have vacation cut short (7)
- 17 To move so quickly is appropriate (5)

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Opposition motion on pensioners' living standards.

Lords (2.30): Debate on wealth creation and investment.

War poetry

After assembling more than 2,500 poetry manuscripts covering the Middle East and Italian campaigns, Salamander Oasis Trust, 94 Temple Chambers, London EC4Y 0HP, is preparing a third volume of war poems.

Lighting-up time

Location	Start	End
London	4.32 pm to 7.03 am	4.42 pm to 7.12 am
Manchester	4.32 pm to 7.10 am	4.32 pm to 7.10 am
Penzance	4.30 pm to 7.10 am	4.30 pm to 7.10 am

Yesterday

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	13	SE	41
Manchester	12	SE	41
Penzance	10	SE	41

Highest and lowest

Location	High	Low
London	13	8
Manchester	12	7
Penzance	10	6

Around Britain

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	13	SE	41
Manchester	12	SE	41
Penzance	10	SE	41

Abroad

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	18	SE	28
Alexandria	18	SE	28
Amman	18	SE	28

COMPUTER COMPETITION WEEK ELEVEN DAY 2

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